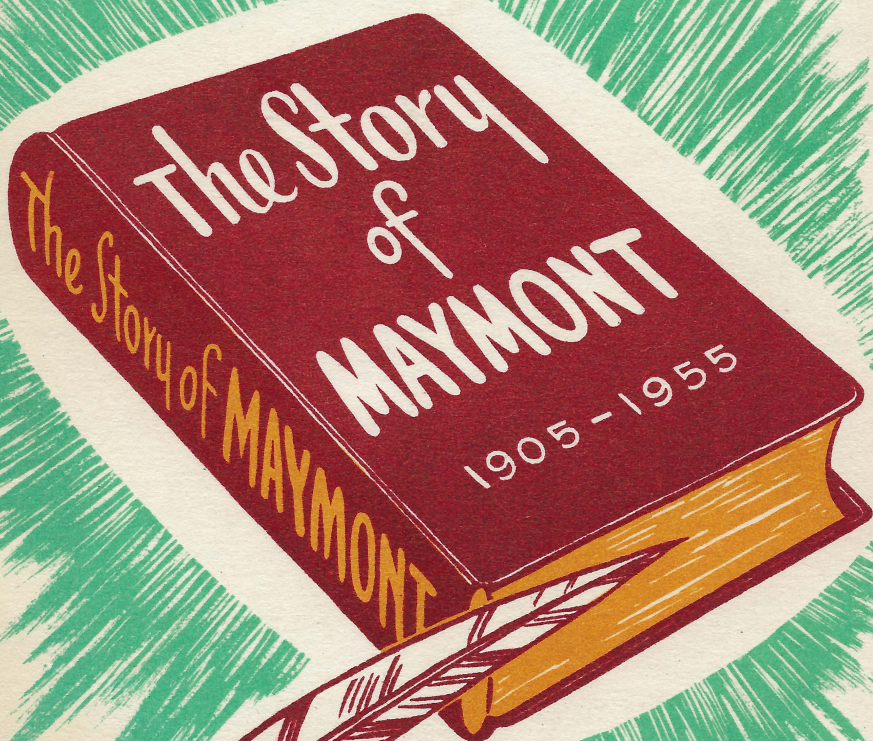


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The STORY OF MAYMONT

Compiled by
Maymont Golden Jubilee Committee



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Mr. Wm. Langley

This history is respectfully dedicated to all pioneers.



MAYMONT FROM THE AIR

THE STORY OF MAYMONT

Chapter 1

Maymont is located on gently undulating parkland five miles north of the North Saskatchewan river between the cities of Saskatoon and North Battleford. It has the distinction of being the highest point above sea level, on the Canadian National Railway, between Winnipeg and North Battleford, elevation 1,941 feet. From this vantage point it commands a magnificent view of the countryside to the south. From the village the landscape slopes gently down through the valley cut by the river, then rises gradually on the other side through the pastoral communities of Spinney Hill and Sonningdale, reaching its summit in the Eagle Hills a few miles beyond. The wooded crests of these hills form a blue rolling horizon, completing an uncommonly fine view of landscape from the village southward.

The river has been an important factor in the history of this community, both as a benefactor and an obstacle. For several weeks in the spring and fall of each year it isolated the south communities from their shopping and market centres, and challenged the resourcefulness of doctor and minister, but in return, it has been the only reliable water supply for the village through the years, and its banks and backwaters have provided many hours of healthful recreation. In the early days its spring flood waters brought rafts of badly needed logs which were salvaged by the enterprising pioneers. Many buildings constructed from this source are still in use. Every old-timer has some tale to tell involving an adventure in crossing the river.

The homesteaders who arrived in the district in 1903 found virgin prairie dotted with clumps of small poplar and sparkling little sloughs trimmed around the edges with poplar and willows. Had it not been for the invasion of man these little bluffs probably would have grown into substantial woods, but in the fall of 1903 a devastating prairie fire swept the area, taking with it many new stacks of hay and killing nearly all the trees. The settlers who came in the spring of 1904 came to a land of desolation scarred with the remains of the burnt bluffs and charred prairie, but nature soon came to the rescue and provided a fresh crop of green grass, giving the countryside the look of a well-kept lawn. Since the land has been brought under cultivation, the prairie fires are no more, and the bluffs have grown up again, providing once more picturesque decoration for the landscape.

The village of Maymont was named after Miss May Montgomery, who was the niece of Mr. McKenzie of McKenzie and Mann, the contractors who built the C.N. Railway through this area in the year 1905.

Mrs. Frank Langley recalls a pleasant afternoon in 1907 when she and her sister, Mrs. Edgar Bean, visited Miss Montgomery during one of the latter's visits to the district. In addition to her secretarial duties for her contractor uncle, Miss Montgomery owned a herd of cattle which she raised on shares with Tom Young in the Spinney



Early Maymont

Hill district. With its ample water, natural shelter and good pasture, Spinney Hill was a very fine ranching country in the early years.

Until 1930 when the C.P. Railway was built from Saskatoon to Baljennie, Maymont was the market town and shopping centre for the settlers of Spinney Hill and Sonningdale. There was considerably more communication with the settlers across the river in the early days than in later years. One of the main projects of the year's activities was the many trips by team and sleighs across the river for the year's supply of firewood. The supply of fire-killed poplar on this side was soon exhausted and the nearest source of fuel was The Hills. The settlers across the river supplemented their incomes by hauling and selling wood to the residents of the town, price delivered two-fifty per load. From this 25c for livery fees, and 25c for a meal had to be deducted, which did not leave much take-home pay for a thirty-mile round trip and two days work for man and team. But the homesteader raised and educated his family without the aid of family allowance or Prairie Farm Assistance Act.

The community has come a long way since the first sods were broken in 1903. There have been ups and downs as in all prairie settlements. Two world wars and a great financial depression accompanied by drought and crop failures have brought sorrows and disappointments, but on the whole the soil has provided a good and abundant living to those with the courage and fortitude to see it through. The community is now served with telephones, rural electrification, twice-daily train service, a first-class highway with numerous buses daily, and a host of social and cultural organizations. Maymont is well known for miles around as a very nice place to live.

Incorporation of the Village

With the influx of settlers came business requirement of the community, supplies had to be obtained and by 1906 there were two gen-

eral stores, one hardware, one drug, one hotel, livery stable, one blacksmith shop, two lumber yards, restaurants and twenty householders.

In April, 1907, H. S. Bride wrote the commissioner of public works suggesting that the hamlet of Maymont be incorporated into a village as there were twenty householders. A petition was later presented containing the twenty names asking for incorporation. This petition was duly approved and an Order-in-Council was passed on Monday, June 24, 1907, declaring Maymont to be a village, the said Order being signed by His Honour Mr. Forget, the Lieutenant-Governor. At the subsequent election F. T. McCorkle was elected overseer and Percy Knowles was the first secretary-treasurer.

Today Maymont offers the aspects of a modern progressive village with two general stores, hardware, locker plant, hotel, cafe, bank, two garages, three service stations, poolroom, blacksmith shop, machine shop, Memorial Hall, Legion Hall, curling rink, four churches, a three-room school and many modern homes, with a population of two hundred and forty people. Maymont is very ideally located on the north side of the Saskatchewan River, sixty-five miles from Saskatoon, and twenty-eight miles from North Battleford.

The residents are very community minded and have numerous activities of entertainment, also many organized clubs too numerous to mention.

This progressive village has built over a mile of cement sidewalks, built a new pump house with modern chlorinating facilities which also houses the fire fighting equipment.

In 1950 the village purchased twelve acres of land for a new sports grounds, this being necessary due to growth of the village.

Incorporation of the Municipality

With the coming of the settlers some form of local government was necessary and on May 6, 1905, a committee met and formed the first council of the Local Improvement District 21-J-3. The members present were Oliver Andrew, David Mitchell, A. E. Potter, James Little, Goldsborough Stockwell. Mr. Stockwell was made chairman and David Mitchell was secretary-treasurer.

On December 16, 1905, the first Polling Divisions were set up at the following points:

- Div. 1—A. Andrew, Maymont.
- Div. 2—W. Parker, Grey School.
- Div. 3—J. Bromley, Osborne House.
- Div. 4—Ed. Nelson, J. E. Little House.
- Div. 5—P. Richard, Richard P.O.
- Div. 6—J. Swan, C. Nolin's House.

The above mentioned divisions and the Local Improvement District governed until January 1, 1910. On January 3, 1910, the Rural Municipality of Mayfield was formed, with M. G. Turnbull as reeve and J. J. Reid, C. Dunford, W. G. Shanks, A. Brehon, G. A. Gates as council, with Percy Knowles as secretary-treasurer. This body proceeded to pass bylaws and run the affairs of the municipality.

When you look back over the forty-five years of progress we can certainly pay tribute to our pioneers and forefathers for the part they played.

Chapter 2



E. Tyhurst's Sod House

The stories of all the pioneer families of this community would occupy too much space for a book of this nature so it is possible to include only a few of them here. There are no doubt dozens of accounts which are just as worthy of mention as these which follow, but space does not permit. These were written by the old-timers themselves and thanks are due them for their efforts to preserve their early experiences for the record.

THE WAY OF A PIONEER

By Alfred J. Andrew

This narrative deals with the early experiences of the Andrew family who came from Balmoral, Manitoba, to homestead in this community in 1903. The members of the family concerned are Mr. and Mrs. William Andrew, senior; Alfred, William, Oliver and Calvin, the four sons; three daughters, Margaret, Annie and Mrs. Robert Williams, and her husband and young son George. I, Alfred, am the narrator.

We shipped a carload of settlers' effects by rail from Balmoral to Saskatoon, and early in the summer of 1903 Robert Williams, my brother-in-law, and I left Saskatoon with two wagonloads of our belongings, bound for our homesteads 75 miles northwest in Township 41, Range 12, W3. Most of the trip was across trackless prairie, the only roads being an occasional prairie trail. We reached the Elbow of the North Saskatchewan river the first night and crossed over by ferry.

The ferry was operated at this time by George and Andrew Boyd. In addition to a small monthly allowance paid by the N.W. Territorial Government they received the ferry fees which consisted

of 25 cents for each team and wagon, 15 cents for each horse and buggy, 10 cents per saddle horse and five cents for each person on foot. The following year when the contractors were crossing with their outfits to build the grade for the new railway, the ferry was so busy that it was often necessary to wait several hours before being taken across. Much of the time the ferry was loaded both coming and going and business for the ferryman was quite brisk. This was the first business enterprise in this part of the country for the Boyd brothers, whose automobile enterprises are well known today.

The following morning we continued on our way but about half way to our destination a very heavy rain fell, making it impossible to continue. We spent the remainder of the day and overnight at the home of Jack Andrews and set off again next morning. Soon it began to rain very heavily again and we put up at Weeden Walker's place until the following morning. The third day we had better luck and managed to arrive about seven o'clock in the evening at Bob William's homestead on the N.E. 28-41-12-W3. Our first job was to put up a tent which was to be our home until something more substantial could be built.

The first sight of our new home made a very deep impression on us. All around was nothing but gently rolling prairie sparkling with little sloughs filled with water embroidered around with fringes of small willows. For company we had the dismal howl of the coyote to let us know we were not alone in this new land. Gophers were in countless numbers popping in and out of their holes, and badgers with their handsome striped faces studied us furtively.

It was all a great challenge to the first pioneers, a challenge to leave a home in an old established settlement to face loneliness and hardship, and by hard work and thriftiness transform a wilderness into prosperous farm land. We pioneers gladly accepted this challenge and looked to the future with courage and hope in our hearts.

The first thing we had to do was to set up shelter for ourselves and our horses, and put up enough hay to carry the horses through the winter. We set up our mower, cut a few loads of hay and then returned to Saskatoon for more loads of our outfit and lumber for a house. On these later trips we spent the nights at the Doukhobor village about one mile from the ferry on the south side of the river.

In July, 1903 we met my father, my sister, Mrs. Williams and her son George in Saskatoon to bring them out to the homesteads. My sister and George stayed at W. Walker's place until we had a house built ready to move into.

After looking over our homesteads father and I returned to Saskatoon for more lumber for houses. On this trip we visited old Mr. Henry Smith of the Smithville district, west of Saskatoon. Mr. Smith was about eighty years of age at that time and had settled there about the time of the Saskatchewan Rebellion in 1885. He and my father had been friends in Ontario about forty years earlier and he had especially requested, through his son Archie, who had a store in Saskatoon at that time, that father go out that way and visit him. We made good time going home with our heavy loads over the soft prairie sod, and after unloading, the day after our return, we made a start at breaking on my father's homestead.

With our Verity 12-inch breaking plow I first broke a fire

guard around the site where the buildings were to be, and then burned off the grass inside the guard. After digging out stones for a foundation for the buildings I set to breaking in earnest and broke six acres on each of the four homesteads; my own: N.E. 34-41-12-W3; Oliver's on the N.W. quarter of the same section; Williams on S.E. 2-42-12-W3, and father's on S.E. 4 in the same township. The haying season was now up on us so I left the breaking, and with the help of Bob Williams a sufficient quantity of hay for all was cut and stacked.

Up to the time that Bob's house was ready to move into and his wife, my sister, took over the cooking, all our cooking was done on a campfire in the open. With the help of a neighbor, John Wheadon, who had homesteaded on N.W. 26-41-12-W3, we finished the house and built a 14x24 foot sod stable on father's homestead. I built a small frame stable for two teams of horses on Bob's homestead where I stayed the first winter. Father went back to Manitoba early in November and returned with the rest of the family next spring.

Up to this time our nearest post office was at Saskatoon but in November of that year the Great Bend post office was opened at Kempton's place north of Twin Lakes, north of where Radisson is today. It was served from Park, another small office south of the river. About this time A. R. Shea opened a store at Great Bend, so it was no longer necessary to drive a team and wagon all the way to Saskatoon for groceries and supplies.

The winter of 1903-04 was a very hard and cold one and kept on with very heavy snowfall and storms until late in April. To those of us, however, who knew what to expect and had made adequate



Maymont Ferry

preparation in the way of food, matches, fuel and coal oil for light, there was no great hardship.

Our family life was broken in 1915 by the death of my mother at the age of 73 years. My father survived her until 1925 when he passed away at the age of 83 years eleven months. Robert Williams was killed in a runaway accident in 1923 but his wife, my sister Maria, continued to live on the homestead until her death in Sept. 1953, aged 81 years.

They came to a wilderness, did much to improve it and lived to help make it a prosperous community.

THE PIONEER WOMEN OF MAYMONT

from 1903 to 1905

They saw the wide prairie skies, and could smell the pungent smells of the Balm of Gilead trees, the Wolf willow, and the sharp tang of grass smoke—the prairie fires! They heard the song of the meadow lark, the harbinger of spring, and the drumming of the prairie chicken.

There were no schools, no churches, no doctors within many miles. Only millions of acres of virgin soil,—the pride of man,—could be seen, dotted with poplar bluffs and sloughs. In summertime sloughs abounded with wild life. Ducks and wild geese in migratory flight filled the skies as they journeyed to and from nesting grounds.

Neighbors were far apart. The loneliness of those pioneering years for women was depressing, until the young family grew older and more settlers came.

Mrs. E. Dunham was the first woman in the Maymont district. She and her husband lived on their homestead S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -34-41-12W in 1903. Later they sold their land and went back to the United States.

Mrs. Whitehouse and her husband came in 1903 northeast of where Maymont now stands. Mrs. Whitehouse was known for her excellent paintings.

Mrs. Robert Williams came with her husband and two-year-old son, Georgie. Elsie was born in 1904, and three sisters and one brother were born later.

Mrs. E. W. Bean, the wife of Maymont's first merchant, arrived in 1905 with her daughter, Ethelwyn. Alan was born in 1906. Mrs. Bean's musical ability was greatly in demand in the newly formed community. Her husband met a tragic death in a runaway accident in June, 1907. Cassie was born two months later. Mrs. Bean was an ardent church worker, and was organist in the Anglican Church for many years. Her kindness and generous hospitality were greatly appreciated by all from far and near. Her daughter, Ethelwyn, now Mrs. Lessard, in later years, with her musical and dramatic ability, helped in no small way to develop these arts among the young people of the community.

Miss Christina Mitchell came with her uncle David Mitchell, and settled in the Grey school district in 1903. She was noted for her horsemanship. One winter day, after her uncle had gone to Great Bend for provisions, a terrible storm came up. Late in the day,

Christina climbed to the top of the "wood teepee," as they were built in those days, and hung a lighted lantern on the top. He saw the light and it guided him home.

Mrs. Ben Martin came with her husband, two daughters and two sons. The two daughters were Maud and Lily. The former married Percy Barrett, Maymont's first photographer. Lily married the celebrated Seager Wheeler of Rosthern.

Mrs. A. Arkley, a slight, active woman, came to the now Keystone district in 1904. One winter evening, coming home after visiting some distant friends, she became lost and kept from freezing to death by digging herself into a straw stack until daylight.

In 1905 Miss Annie Arkley arrived in the Keystone district. She was the first teacher at Grey School. The shingling and siding was done while school was in session, making it difficult for teacher to hear pupils. A few years later Miss Annie Arkley, the loveliest young lady in the district, became Mrs. Alex Brehon. She has two daughters and three sons.

Mrs. William Parker, the mother of three daughters and one son, was one of the early pioneers. She was always cheerful, and liked to tell jokes on the Irish. She would always have Scotch shortbread for Christmas, no matter how difficult it was to procure butter.

Mrs. William Andrew Sr. came to the Maymont district with her husband, four sons, and two daughters. They kept open house for many homesteaders and young people who enjoyed their hospitality.

Mrs. Butterfield, with her husband and young son, Frankie, arrived on their homestead on Easter Sunday, 1905. They borrowed a tent from Wm. Andrew, Sr. and camped out. Then Mr. Butterfield had to take their team of horses and go back to Saskatoon for another load of settlers effects. The first night after she had gone to bed, she was startled by a horse and rig stopping at the tent, and a man's voice asking her to get up and go home with him. It was Oliver Andrew. He and his wife did not like the idea of her staying alone in the tent. Once more, Andrews' showed their pioneer spirit and hospitality.

Mrs. Bergman, with her husband and several children lived on the eastern outskirts of the Maymont district. Their home was often referred to as the "halfway house" between Richard Ranch and Great Bend. Many settlers have spent a night at their home.

Mrs. Schloemer, and Mrs. Gerhart Fast were pioneer women who have also done their various parts and work in early days. The first Christmas celebration for the community was held in Mr. Fast's home.

Mrs. Stephen, with her daughters, Elsie and Sally, came with Mr. Stephen and four sons to their homestead in June, 1904, and made her contribution to the development of the country by assisting those in need of help. In 1907 Elsie married Tom Young of Spinney Hill and carried on her helpfulness to others from her new home.

There were no hospitals or nurses in the early days, so a member of the Stephen family, and a mother of four, Mrs. Tall was one of the many pioneer women who unselfishly filled the breach by helping the expectant mother over her confinement. In 1909 she moved to Vancouver with her family.

Mrs. Wm. Holmes came from Nebraska in 1903 with her husband

and settled on a homestead northeast of Maymont. She soon established a reputation for caring for expectant mothers and for nursing the sick and by 1932 fifty babies had been born under her care. She and her husband always welcomed visitors and insisted they stay for a meal. She was the bachelor's idol. She baked bread for five bachelors, charging only \$1.50 for baking a one hundred pound bag of flour and provided all the yeast, salt, fat and fuel for the fire. Flour at that time sold for \$1.95 per 100 pounds.

Mrs. J. C. Madill, the wife of the first Presbyterian minister, and her four daughters enjoyed entertaining people at their home.

The Miss McCorkles, Ida and Elizabeth, lived with their brother Fred until he was married. Later they moved to British Columbia where one of them was married.

Mrs. O. Brumbough, Mrs. Wm. Schmidt, Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Alf. Hawkins have all played their part in the early community history by helping those in need. They all have families of children who grew up in this district and have scattered far and wide. Some are still living here.

Miss Northcott, whose family were early settlers, married Jack Miller. She is the mother of two daughters and two sons.

Anna Malmgren now Mrs. Geo. Mohler, arrived in the Richard district September 12th, 1903, with her parents, two sisters and three brothers. With her mother and five-year-old sister, she had driven the buggy team all the way from the southern Black Hills in Wyoming. When fording a stream or river, a horseback rider usually went ahead. While crossing the Missouri River, the water came up over the sides of the buggy, but they balanced the buggy, and with pioneer confidence they suffered no mishap.

They brought about sixteen head of horses. Cutting and putting up hay, and building a sod house and barn was quite a task. The grass everywhere was about two feet tall, and so dense one could scarcely walk through it. That fall a prairie fire swept the whole country and burned the hay that had been put up.

Mr. Malmgren was a railroad contractor, and would be gone about five to six months each summer, leaving Anna with her five-year-old sister and twelve-year-old brother on the homestead. This took courage, as neighbors were several miles away. One fall, Mrs. Malmgren, anxious to get home, crossed the river south of Maymont by strapping two boards to her feet, while the ice was not strong enough to bear up horses and wagons.

Anna married George Mohler in 1905 and has lived in the Maymont district since then. They have three daughters and one son.

Of the thirty-one Pioneer Women mentioned, there are seven still resident and taking part in the life of the community.

They are: Mrs. Anna Brehon; Mrs. F. Butterfield; Mrs. Sally Langley; Mrs. Kate Holmes, now Mrs. Van-Northwick; Mrs. Mary Brumbaugh; Mrs. Bill Schmidt and Mrs. Anna Mohler.

The Stephen family, of which I am a member, came from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, to Canada in 1902, living at Whitewood, Assiniboia, for two years on a rented farm. In 1904 we filed on our homesteads near what was later the village of Maymont. The farm is now owned by the Melrose family.

In the spring of 1904 we started from Whitewood with 50 head

of cattle, 4 horses and a pony and colt. There were 11 members in the family. We drove overland as there was a washout at the Lumsden bridge. For the journey we covered a hayrack with sheets, which was drawn by four horses. This was our home for the next five months. We drove the cattle on foot with the help of my ten-year-old brother on his little pony. Leaving early in May the roads had many soft places, with melting snow and getting stuck was a common occurrence. At Sinaluta about two weeks after we left, one of the mares had a colt. We proclaimed a holiday and named the colt Luta. This left only three horses to pull the heavy load. The next time that we were mired the three horses were unable to pull us out, but one of my brothers got a brilliant idea—he caught the Shorthorn bull, put the horse harness on it and hitched him up with the horses. The bull, with his added strength and businss-like horns, inspired the horses in no uncertain manner and we were soon again on dry land.

We milked 20 cows and separated the milk and churned butter which found ready sale in the little towns along the way. Game was plentiful so we had a varied diet. Life went on in an orderly manner, clothes were washed after breakfast and dried at the noon stop. The children had their regular baths and Sunday was a day of rest for all hands.

We reached the homestead at the end of June, having covered the 400 miles in six weeks, with only two rainy days. To our parents it may have been a worry, but to the young people of the family it was one glorious adventure with something new to see at every turn of the road.

Our cattle were the first to roam along the river and it was a common sight to see a few deer grazing among the cattle when we went to get the milk cows.

During the summer we built a large sod house but did not occupy it until November because we were so busy getting up feed for our stock and other homestead work. We covered the sod walls with curtains which gave it a home-like appearance. My mother often remarked that she felt buried alive with sods under, around and above her.

Our nearest Post Office and store were at Great Bend, North of where Radisson now stands, which was twenty miles away. One day when my sister and I drove to get our mail and stores we overtook a team of ponies and an immaculate young lady dressed in the fashion of that period, in a long white dress, large hat and white gloves. She had driven the team into an alkali slough to water the team and they were badly mired. With co-operative effort and a little manouvering we got them out and three bedraggled mud-splattered maidens went on their way. The lady in question was Mrs. Mohler.

The Church services were conducted by the Methodist Missionary, Mr. Matheson and were held in the large comfortable sod house built by the late Mr. Fast. We fairly made the rafters ring singing such hymns as "Beulah Land," "Throw Out the Lifeline" and others. Mary Fast was the organist. A social hour followed the service, when the week's experiences were exchanged and new settlers introduced.

Probably our family was the first to cross the river. We had no boat so we lashed a wagon box on to a raft of poles and poled our

way across. This was an unwieldy process so next summer a boat was built. With fitting ceremony it was christened "The Lapwing" and by breaking a bottle on her bows, she was launched.

The railroad was an accomplished fact in 1905 and we felt we were again in civilization. For a few years after we came, it gave us quite a thrill to see the Hudson's Bay Company's paddle steamer running between Edmonton and Prince Albert, so as to keep her navigation charter valid by the yearly voyage.

The water became scarce on the homestead and we decided to take our cattle across the river where feed and water were plentiful. Our method was simple—we led a cow behind the boat, then all hands drove the cattle into the river wading after them as far as we could without floating away. After a few attempts to break back to shore they strung out and followed the swimming cow, and the 60 head crossed without loss.

In 1905 the Morgan family, from England, settled on the South bank of the river. This became our regular crossing until the ferry was built late in the summer of 1907. My father was the first ferryman. When we wanted to cross the river and no boat on this side, simple means were used. We would stand on the bank and call until heard by the Morgans, then John or Walter would row across. No wonder we lost what singing voices we had. At this point I would like to pay tribute to the Morgan family who played a large part on the river at that time. Neighbor and stranger alike accepted their voluntary assistance and their fine pioneer hospitality.

The usual procedure for the settler from across the river to come to town, was to drive to the river, row across and then walk the five miles to Maymont. If conditions warranted we would sometimes put the harness in the boat and swim the horses, then hitch them to a stoneboat left on this side for the purpose and drive to town. Later the storekeepers arranged for a democrat to meet us on certain days at a specified time and drive us to town, which was indeed a luxury for us.

On one occasion my brother and I went across the river. The only boat available was an old derelict which had washed ashore in a recent flood. A couple of small boards found on the beach served as oars and we set off. In midstream the boat started leaking at every seam. With no baling can available we were in danger of getting swamped. My brother rose to the occasion—taking off his high-topped lumberman's boot with which I baled the boat, keeping the water at a reasonable level until we reached the opposite shore.

The winter of 1906-07 was the worst in the history of the country. Train service was uncertain. Coal oil was at a premium and we had to resort to a saucer of tallow and a piece of cotton for a wick like our ancestors did, to give us a glimmer of light at night. At that time Percy Knowles had visions of making a fortune out of poultry. He bought an incubator to hatch chickens. After the hatch was well on the way the coal oil ran out and not having any available in Maymont, he went through snowdrifts to Ruddell and got one gallon. He was rewarded with about a dozen chickens but no broody hen to care for them. Mother Nature came to his aid in the form of an ancient rooster with domestic aspirations; he took the orphans under his wings and cared for them through their childhood. After this experience

Percy's ambitions died a natural death.

During the summer the river flood reached an all-time high when logs, lumber and other flotsam came down stream. At that time a wedding party was on its way to their respective homes across the river. When the bridal party, relatives and friends reached the river the men spied a huge raft of lumber floating down stream. With visions of building houses and barns, they abandoned the bride and lady guests and took to the boats with the hope of towing the raft into quiet waters. Unfortunately the raft was too large and the current too strong and not having suitable equipment they regretfully saw their hope float away. Before they returned to the ladies a thunderstorm which had been brewing all afternoon broke, and with it came a deluge of rain and hail drenching everyone thoroughly. What the bride and ladies said was not recorded. Many a modern bride has been granted a divorce for less but the Pioneer Bride married for keeps.

The bobbysockers of today have visions of reaching Hollywood, but in the Pioneer days their ambitions ran along other lines. One of our talented young ladies longed to ride the range. Among her many admirers was a cowboy who owned a beautiful black saddle horse. It had not been ridden by a lady and had a mania for rearing. Our embryo cow girl overcame that difficulty by tying the horse's head to the corral fence, mount the horse, lean over and untie it, then ride off. She is none other than Mrs. Lessard, better known as Ethelwyn.

Even in the early days we had our embarrassing moments. One such was experienced when one of the fair sex assisting to drive cattle during a winter thaw was thrown into a puddle of slushy water when her horse lost his footing. The rider got feet and clothing thoroughly wet. She went to a nearby farm house, but the only clothes available was a sheepskin coat, man's size, and a pair of men's boots. These she gladly accepted. Farther along the road she saw approaching a snappy team and cutter and two male passengers. With the inherent pride of appearance of Mother Eve she dismounted and stood in a snow drift to hide her feet while the equipage drove past. The sheepskin must have done the trick for later one of the occupants of the cutter and the rider were married.

No old-time history would be complete without our most honoured oldtimer, "Our Doc." He came West serving as doctor with the railroad gang and has made his home with us since 1906.

Every family has their favourite story to tell of Doc., some humorous and some perhaps tragic; but all the same ending. The weather was never too stormy nor the road too long when Doc. neither spared himself nor his little team to come to our aid. Somehow, when he arrived, we felt everything would be all right, he inspired us with confidence to face the future. On one occasion, he drove miles into the unknown Northland when his services were rewarded by three weasel skins, which hung in his office for many a day as a souvenir of his journey.

Many tales are told of bachelors and their ox teams and I will add another to the long list. One of our local bachelors was ploughing on the homestead with his oxen. The day was very hot and the mosquitoes were trying the patience of man and beast. The oxen decided they had had enough—they bolted and dragging the plough behind them made for a nearby slough. There they stood deep in

the cool water, calmly chewing their cud and defied all efforts to get them out. The bachelor decided he too would turn business into pleasure by having a swim and get cooled off after his merry chase. He disrobed and hung his clothes on a nearby bush. When the oxen saw the unclothed specimen of humanity entering the water they stampeded once again. As they dashed through the bushes the horns of one of the oxen caught on the clothing hanging on the willow. This accelerated their speed as they dashed across the prairie with the nude bachelor in pursuit followed by swarms of hungry mosquitoes looking for a meal.

S. E. Langley.

OUR PIONEER DOCTOR

No pioneer settler has rendered greater service to the community than has the country doctor. And no doctor has been more worthy of the love and admiration of his people than Maymont's own Dr. Scratch, familiarly known as "Doc."

Dr. Scratch was born January 25, 1882, in Amherstburg, Ontario. He attended public school there and high school in Toronto. He graduated in medicine from Toronto University in the year 1905.

After graduation Dr. Scratch was offered a position as doctor on an ocean liner or a pass to Vienna to continue his studies but in September, 1905, decided to come West and on the 23rd September, he left Windsor, Ontario, by harvest excursion train. He intended to spend only three years in the West but either through lack of funds or love of the West, or both, he stayed eleven years before returning and then not to stay East.



Our Doc

He looked around the West and was advised by Mr. Kirty of Winnipeg who was in charge of C.N.R. townsites that Fielding should be a good point for a practice. He looked it over, did not stay then, but took up a position as doctor for the C.N.R. construction; and was stationed at the bridge west of North Battleford. While in construction work he also had a private practice at North Battleford. He had plenty of typhoid fever cases that were taken to a very primitive hospital in North Battleford.

After completing work with the C.N.R. construction, Dr. Scratch settled in Fielding in 1906. He stayed there for that year and in the winter of 1907 moved to Maymont which seemed to be more central for his practice. Dr. Scratch had operated a drug store while in Fielding. Then, he moved to Maymont, where he had office and drug store in the present poolroom. He resided in the hotel and private homes until he purchased the site of his present home, located on Lot 19 Block 5 on the north side of Second Avenue where he erected a small house which also served as his office. He sold his drug business to Mr. Walter Mawhinney who lived with Dr. Scratch until such time as he had his own dwelling. In 1908 Dr. Scratch erected his present house.

Dr. Scratch's practice was large, extending to Richard, Speers, Lilac, Alticane, Mayfair, as far north as there was settlement and south to Sonningdale, Spinney Hill and bordering the Perdue country. To cover such territory with horses in the early days meant untold hardship, discomfort and self-sacrifice as long drives were undertaken in foul weather and fair and at any hour of the day or night. In order to care for patients south of the North Saskatchewan River it was often necessary to cross the river in the "Basket" when the ferry was not in operation during the spring break-up and the fall low water level. This meant climbing a sixty foot tower, pulling himself across a fifteen hundred foot river expansion, being met on the other side and driven to the patient. One time when the ice was breaking up in the spring it was only by sheer good luck that Dr. Scratch arrived back safely. The ice was rising about a foot an hour and struck the basket about twenty feet from the shore. Sometimes Dr. Scratch had to walk across the river. For safety he and one of the ferrymen carried a plank to hold them up should they go through the ice. They were followed by a man with a rope in case of accident. In one instance Dr. Scratch did get a ducking but this did not deter him. He borrowed a pair of trousers and continued to the home of the patient where he dried his underwear in the oven.

Distant calls meant absence from home for two or three days at a time with little opportunity for sleep or rest. He snatched a wink of sleep where he could, on a floor, or a table, in a chair or as he travelled along the road. The fact that he had access to any home and cookie jar in the district helped to ease the strain of his arduous task. On one occasion while attending a patient about forty miles north of Maymont he left his horses tethered. The mosquitoes, which were very plentiful, bothered the horses until they broke loose and disappeared. It was about two weeks before he recovered them when they wandered up to the gate of a farmyard. The farmer's wife saw the team, found them very friendly, put them in the stable and advertised the find in the Ranchman's Gazette.

During the 'flu epidemic of 1918 Dr. Scratch gave himself untiringly and was rewarded for his efforts by the recovery of almost every patient.

In the early days and also during the depression money was not too plentiful and the services of the doctor were paid with horses, hay, wood, meat or even weasel skins. In the odd case the doctor had to lend money to pay for the medicine he prescribed.

Though there were many hardships, life had some good times and its humorous side also. Dr. Scratch has enjoyed his professional work and does not regret his decision of fifty years ago—to come to the West. Now and again some amusing incident is recalled by those who know the doctor best. When not yet very well known in the district, Dr. Scratch was called on an urgent case. Upon arrival he handed the reins to his companion and went to the door. He was met by the gentleman of the house who said, "Boy, you go and hold the team and tell the doctor to come in right away."

In another instance he was called to see a young woman at the home of her employer. He examined her but could find nothing wrong. When left alone with him she said, "There isn't anything wrong with me, Doctor. They won't pay me and I'm going to say here till they do," to which he replied, "Cripes, move over and let me in too."

In August, 1932, the people of Maymont, to show appreciation of the faithful service rendered by Dr. Scratch for twenty-five years, planned a picnic in his honor. People, from every corner of his large practice, contributed and gathered to see him presented with a new car and buffalo coat and hat. Doctors from Saskatoon, North Battleford and other towns were in attendance. Dr. Alexander of Saskatoon spoke on behalf of the medical profession in tribute to Dr. Scratch. The doctor's mother and sister came from Amherstburg, Ontario, to be present at the celebration. The Honorable George Langley was the main speaker of the day and Mr. Emil Richard made the presentation.

On November first of 1935 the people of Spinney Hill showed their appreciation to Dr. Scratch when at a gathering in his honor they presented him with a bag and a Siwash sweater, accompanied by a scroll bearing the names of ninety-nine babies he attended at birth. It was inscribed "To our beloved Physician, Dr. John A. Scratch, from his children whom he has lovingly attended during their short lives." The feelings of those present were summed up in the words of a poem selected and framed for the occasion, entitled:

The Country Doctor

Day out, day in, for thirty years or more
Up the river hills and down he went,
His black square case upon the buggy floor.
I've seen him give the weary team the reins
And, worn out, sleep the while they ambled home
His eyes were set in crinkled lines of mirth,
Cheer was prescribed with bitter calomel
He was the arbiter of death and birth
The go-between of heaven and hell
Tender as woman, steadfast as a rock
Small wonder that we country folk all love—

"Our Doc." Spinney Hill, November, 1935.

Not only has Dr. Scratch officiated at the birth of many babies but he himself has two sons, both of whom have followed their father's profession. Dr. John Ronald Scratch practices at Cut Knife, Saskatchewan, and Dr. Walter Norvell (Pink) Scratch, a specialist in internal medicine, practises in Stratford, Ontario.

Dr. Scratch has always had a keen interest in the undertakings of the community. He was at one time a member of the Board of Managers of the Presbyterian Church. He is keenly interested in sports and in his younger days he played hockey and baseball. He now listens to the sports broadcasts, attends games when he can and plays golf whenever weather permits. It is not easy to get him to perform at the piano but he occasionally plays for his own amusement. He enjoys his game of cards be it bridge or solitaire. He is a radio fan and keeps abreast with world as well as local news.

To the people of Maymont, Dr. Scratch is a familiar figure and his absence from its streets for a day is cause for concern. He is known for his friendly hand-shake and kindly word of encouragement as he greets young and old in his daily rounds.

After an absence from town for a time Dr. Scratch is greeted with enthusiasm. As his return is announced from house to house, everyone is restored to a feeling of security at his presence in the community again. Owing to the passage of the years and ill-health Dr. Scratch's services have been somewhat curtailed of late years. In the winter of 1953 he underwent a serious operation and now enjoys better health.

This, being Jubilee Year is a fitting time to pay tribute to our pioneer doctor, who also celebrates the fiftieth anniversary by a class reunion in Toronto, June, 1955.

GEO. M. MOHLER, 1942

A hundred years from now there will be some people who wonder what the Maymont district was like in the year 1904 and before. I will only write what I have actually seen and experienced.

I came in May, 1904 from Nebraska, U.S.A. along with hundreds of American farmers and landseekers, to take homesteads or buy land from the C.P.R. or the Hudson's Bay Co.

By paying \$10.00 entry fee and declaring your intentions to become a British subject, and by living on your homestead at least six months each year for three years and by improving your claim by breaking and cultivating at least 30 acres at the end of three years and then actually becoming a British subject you could become the owner of 160 acres of land.

That was quite an attraction and opportunity. I, and I know many others who homesteaded, have never regretted it. In 1904 when our landseekers' excursion train reached Regina we were informed that the railroad tracks were washed out in the Qu'Appelle Valley between Regina and Saskatoon and that the railroad bridge across the South Saskatchewan River at Saskatoon was washed out. So we and hundreds of other land seekers had to wait about eight days before the railroad tracks were repaired well enough, so we could proceed very slowly north towards Saskatoon and the North Country. The railroad grades were soaked and shaky. The train just

crawled along in places. Heavy rains in 1903 and extra heavy snowfalls in the winter of 1903 and 1904 were the cause of the floods.

When we came to Saskatoon we were surprised to see the South Saskatchewan River such a mighty torrent overflowing its banks. Our boat loaded to capacity danced merrily over places where now houses stand. After we crossed the river we boarded a train, composed of an old fashioned big funneled wood burning locomotive and a string of box cars. There were no passenger cars north of the river on account of the flood. I heard a Government official say, "This land rush is a bigger rush than the Gold Rush I witnessed in Alaska."

A young Scotsman by the name of Frank Hutchison and many others stopped at Rosthern. From there Frank Hutchison and I walked 20 miles west to where a couple of Nebraska people had rented farms. Before we got to where they lived, right on the main road, we waded through water three feet deep in some low places.

We helped our acquaintances finish putting in their crop, then six of us in all went across the North Saskatchewan River on a cable ferry. Mr. Wm. Holmes drove the team hitched to a farm wagon with canvas covered over bows over the wagon box, this kind of conveyance was called a "Prairie Schooner." Besides Mr. Holmes were Oscar Brumbaugh, Henry Christfield, Wm. Schmidt, Frank Hutchison and myself.

We camped a couple of miles east of where Richard is now. During the night the horses stampeded on account of clouds of mosquitoes and we could not find them. While Mr. Holmes and I were looking for those horses we walked about 36 miles east, skirting Redberry Lake on the south and on till we reached the Petrofka ferry, then we skirted the Saskatchewan River for about 24 miles till we reached what was called the elbow ferry (Lovell's ferry). There we saw the first railroad contractor's outfit crossing the river on the ferry. The river was all of a mile wide, very imposing and capable of carrying large steamboats during flood times.

We could not find our horses, so we offered a reward to whoever would find them and notify us so we could get them. About three weeks later a man by the name of John Swain found the horses and got his reward of \$12.00.

During this time we got Alfred Andrew to help locate our homesteads. Then we walked to Battleford, the capital of the North-West Territories and head land office for the territory.

We crossed the North Saskatchewan River on a steam ferry, which was kept very busy, carrying homesteaders, freighters and Indians back and forth. We filed on our homesteads and then we walked back to where Mr. Holmes lived, a distance of 75 miles as the crow flies, but we had to circle around lakes and heavy timber. We were glad when we reached Mr. Holmes' place. Then Mr. Wm. Schmidt hitched up two of his horses and took us back to our homesteads.

I tell you, the country looked good to us Nebraska people. There was water in every slough, with plenty of muskrats, ducks, geese, swans and many other kinds of water birds. The soil was mostly a black sandy loam. The country was dotted with bluffs of brush and timber, mostly white poplar, black poplar and diamond willow.

There were many dry trees and bushes in the bluffs just as

there is now in the year 1942. We were so pleased with the abundance of water we never seriously questioned why there were so many dead trees and bushes, where there was so much moisture, game, wood and great growth of grass. We thought fire was the cause, but now we know for certain this district had a dry cycle before that wet cycle, which we found when we came up here in 1904.

Then we were advised to build our houses on high ground so we would not get snowed under and so our cellars would not fill with water.

We all started to farm. Those who had no equipment worked on the railroad construction gang, bridge gang or worked in the lumber camps, while others freighted for the railroad camps or goods and provisions for Battleford, Lloydminster, etc. A sack of flour cost \$2.50 in Saskatoon, was \$3.50 in Battleford and \$4.50 in Lloydminster. We freighters charged one cent per mile for 100 pounds for freight hauled.

The land was broken (as we called it), worked down and sown mostly to wheat, as this district seemed to be adapted to grow wheat better than coarse grains. Most wheat growers were successful except on low lying flat land, where they were subject to early fall frosts.

Red Fife wheat was the standard variety sown in the early years. It was a good milling wheat and a good yielder, but it took a long time to mature and would rust and lodge easily. In 1910 Marquis wheat made its appearance and it found favor with the settlers. It was good milling and yielding wheat, which would not lodge easily and would mature earlier. Marquis replaced Red Fife.

Now in the year 1942 rust-resisting wheats with all the other good qualities as Thatcher, Renown and Apex have displaced Marquis.

We must pay tribute to the Pioneer Women, for their courage, their steadfastness under trials and misfortunes such as frost, hail, windstorms, fires and diseases of cattle, hogs and horses.

Yes! They felt the lack of roads, churches, schools, wells, good houses and better conveniences, more than men did. But they complained very little and helped their men a great deal, to get these essential things to better living. A person who never lived on a frontier cannot realize that in a new country there are no roads, not even trails, no houses, no people to question or talk to. There are no wells, no boards or nails, not even a crooked one. You are right up against nature in all its glory and strength, and, it is red of hoof and claw. You could not change nature, but you could adapt your ways to suit and to work with nature. Nature demanded that you build warm houses for the cold winters, that you lay in a supply of fuel, that you dig wells to supply water (now dugouts too).

There was one bright side to pioneering in this district, you could earn money railroading, freighting or breaking land for other people, which gave us the means to buy lumber and necessary things for the house, till our fields of grain gave us enough revenue to stay home and depend on farm income alone.

As the land was broken up the native grasses disappeared. Farmers had to sow Brome Grass, Western Rye Grass, Sweet Clover, Alfalfa and Crested Wheat Grass.

I could not say whether the English, the Scotch, the Irish, the

Eastern Canadians or the Americans predominated, but I do know the settlers around here, are the finest people to get along with I found anywhere. They believe in good schools, churches, good roads and they are ready and do help people in need.

When we first settled here, the majority of the settlers drove oxen because there was no grain to feed horses. It was not long before dealers shipped in horses from Ontario, Montana and Alberta. Most Americans brought horses with them from the States.

At first we used one-furrow walking plows. Then as we got more power, i.e. oxen or horses, walking gangs. Then riding horse machinery. Then tractors made their appearance, to pull all sorts of tillage machinery and run threshing machines that used to be driven by treadmills or horsepower. Now in 1942 we have rubber-tired, self-starting, electric lighted, high geared tractors with much power and speed, pulling tillage and harvest combines.

HON. GEORGE LANGLEY
M.L.A. for Redberry 1905-1921



Hon. George Langley

Minister of Municipal Affairs 1912-1921.

Minister in Charge of Bureau of Public Health 1913-1921.

George Langley was born November 10th, 1852 on a farm near the old historic town of Saffron Walden, Essex, England. The youngest of four sons of James and Mary Langley.

At the age of 16 he left the farm and went to live with his eldest brother in northeast London. He obtained work as a warehouse man with one of the Importing Firms in the "City of London," attended

night school and joined the Green Lanes Wesleyan Church. He soon attracted the attention of the Rev. Samuel Coley, one of the leading Methodist ministers of North London, who became interested in the earnest, studious lad, helped him with his studies, gave him the freedom of his excellent library and directed his reading.

In January, 1875, Mr. Langley married Miss Ellen Hales and four sons and one daughter were born to them.

During his years in London Mr. Langley never lost his boyhood's ambition to own a farm of his own and in April, 1893 sold his small dairy business and with his wife and family emigrated to Canada. The family arrived in Saskatoon May 5th, 1893, the carload of "Settlers Effects" going on to Osler. Mr. Langley had arranged to buy a farm 16 miles from Saskatoon, six miles east of Osler, on what is now known as the "Warman Municipality." Then followed three heart-breaking years of trying to wrest a living from a stoney sand pile. Life on a rented farm at Rosthern gave the family plenty of hard work, but not much profit. In 1903 Mr. Langley and his sons purchased and homesteaded land 10 miles N.E. of what is now the village of Maymont which has been their home since.

In London Mr. Langley had been active in church, community and political life, he had developed into a clear and forceful speaker, and he soon began to interest himself in the problems facing the pioneers of Western Canada. Agriculture was the primary industry of Saskatchewan and from 1900 he became an active member of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and for many years held high office in the Association, and in the Canadian Council of Agriculture.

In 1905 Mr. Langley was nominated as a candidate for, and elected as the Liberal member for "Redberry" in the first Legislature of the new province of Saskatchewan, and continued to represent the riding until 1921. During all these years he fought the farmers' battles, in season and out of season, and was almost always the spokesman of any delegation from the Saskatchewan Government to Ottawa or before any Royal Commission. The farmers were hostile about the price paid them for their products, especially wheat, and the profits made by the middlemen before it reached the consumer. In 1910 Mr. Langley was chiefly responsible for Hon. Walter Scott appointing a commission to enquire into the buying, handling and selling of grain. The chairman of the Commission was Dr. Robert MacGill, Professor of Economics, Dalhousie University. Mr. Langley represented the Saskatchewan Government. Mr. F. W. Green of Moose Jaw represented the Grain Growers, and Mr. Percy Knowles of Maymont was Secretary. Meetings were held throughout Saskatchewan and some outside points, and the Commission's report to the Saskatchewan Government recommended a system of Co-operative marketing and selling. At the Grain Growers' annual convention in early spring of 1911 the Report was placed before the delegates, and a lively battle ensued between the delegates favoring state ownership led by Mr. Partridge, and those led by Mr. Langley endorsing the Commission's Report. The report of the Commission was finally accepted and a Bill was presented to and passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1911 incorporating the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co.

In 1912 Hon. Walter Scott invited Mr. Langley to become a member of his Cabinet, with the portfolio of Minister of Municipal Affairs, and during his term of office, 1912-1921, he was responsible for much of the legislation still contained in the Statutes governing the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Until 1913 the Bureau of Public Health had been a part of the Department of Agriculture but much of its work was dealt with by the rural municipalities so it was transferred and Mr. Langley became "Minister in Charge of the Bureau of Public Health," and due to his influence Dr. M. M. Seymour, the very able Deputy Minister of Public Health was able to see many of his dreams and hopes of years become law, notably among which was the distribution of anti-toxin for Diphtheria, and serums for combating communicable diseases, chief of which were Scarlet Fever, Smallpox and Whooping Cough.

After his retirement from political life in 1921 Mr. Langley still took an active part in the work of the Co-op. Elevator Co. until it was merged into the Pool Elevator Company and in 1928 at the request of Premier J. G. Gardiner he was the representative of the Province of Saskatchewan of "The Canadian Farmers' Marketing Party" under the auspices of the C.N.R. in their tour of Great Britain and Denmark. At the end of the tour the party were the guests of the "Corporation of the City of London" to a luncheon at the Guildhall, and Mr. Langley was given the honor of tendering the vote of thanks of the party to the Corporation.

On August 26th, 1933 there was "one clear call" and the long colorful and useful life closed. He rests in the Maymont Cemetery, which is situated in the centre of the district he loved and served so long and so faithfully.

Chapter 3

EDUCATION

That the importance of education was recognized by the pioneers is shown by the fact that the first school district in Maymont community was organized within a year after the coming of the first settlers. Most of these school districts were organized five by four miles comprising twenty sections of land. The rural schools of pioneer days not only served the purpose of education but were used as churches and centres for social gatherings such as dances, box socials and concerts.

The first school in this area was Keystone School District, No. 1144 of the North West Territories. It was the second school north of the North Saskatchewan River and was organized in 1904 when there were twelve children of school age. Lumber for the school was hauled from Saskatoon, a distance of seventy miles. The members of the first school board were Messrs. Ben Martin, John McKeen and James Smith. The school was opened for classes in May, 1905 with Mr. Albert Elliott as teacher. There are now fifteen pupils enrolled. The first building was moved to Badger Bluff for a teacherage and replaced by the Neepawa School.

Gray School District, No. 1356, the second district was organized

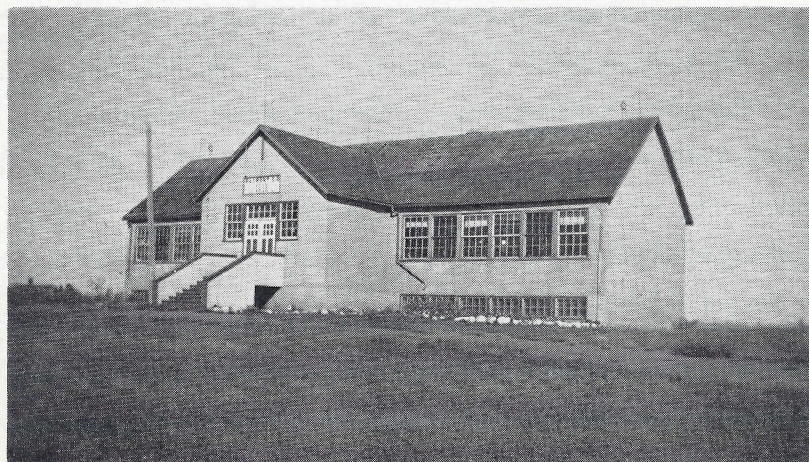


First School

in 1905 and the school opened November 1st of that year with Miss A. A. Arkley (Mrs. C. A. Brehon) as teacher. Several children from outside the district, mostly from what is now Wavy Bank District, attended with ten or twelve from Gray District. The first board consisted of Mr. G. Parker who was also Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. William Andrew, Sr. and Mr. J. R. Rogers. The school is still in operation with twelve children enrolled.

On April 11th, 1906 Neepawa School District No. 1517 was established and opened the same year with Mr. Thomas A. Amoss as teacher. Owing to a very small enrolment this school was closed and the building moved to Keystone District.

Maymont School District, No. 1555 was organized in 1906. A one room school was built south of Mr. L. D. Reid's residence, on



Maymont's Present School

land purchased from Mr. J. J. Reid. Classes began on April 7th, 1907 with Miss Isa Melrose as first teacher. The school board at that time was Mr. Harry Dawson, who was also Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. H. Carey and Mr. D. Thom. Mr. John Reid was janitor. By 1912 the one room school had become too small and a second room was added. In 1919 the rooms were again over-crowded so Grades I to IV were taught in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. At the annual meeting of 1925 it was decided to move the school to the present site and add a third room. The junior grades were moved from the church basement and Grades I to XI were taught. In 1936 a chemistry laboratory was added. A school barn, teeters and swings were provided in 1937. Maymont School is now well equipped, provides instruction for Grades I to XII and has an enrolment of eighty pupils. Mr. J. D. Blacklock who has served on the school board for twenty-five years is Chairman of the Local Board.

The Calais School District No. 3554 was established April 26th, 1915 and was opened in 1916 with Miss Vera Amy Cooper as teacher. This school is still in operation with an enrolment of seven pupils.

The latest School District to be organized was the Montro School District No. 3976 which was established October 19th, 1917 and placed in operation in the year 1918, the teacher being Miss Phylis Adamson. At the present time this school is not in operation.

In the early years the province was not divided into inspectorates and in 1906 eight inspectors served the whole province. The Maymont area later became part of the Radisson Inspectorate. The North Battleford School Unit was established March 18th, 1946 and the schools of Maymont and district became part of that Unit. Besides the usual curriculum, the school now provides such extra curricular activities as oratory, musical festivals and a field day. A travelling library provides the schools of the Unit with excellent library books. Sound and film strip projectors make it possible to show pictures relating to subject matter and current events thus enriching the course of study.

Chapter 4

CHURCHES

MAYMONT ANGLICAN CHURCH RECORD

Anglican services were first held in Maymont in 1904 in the home of Mr. C. Milman Sr.

A student minister, Mr. Mayne, officiated. He stayed in the district for about two years. He was followed by various students, one of which was Mr. Hackett.

In 1908 Rev. D. G. Schorfield came to this district and he organized the building of the present Anglican Church.

He first built a small shack and bought some land, and with Old Country help began to build the church. Mr. Albert Bouskill was in charge of the carpenter work, assisted by sundry help. Much encouragement came from all sides. The crop was small, yet apart from the help of the S. P. C. K. \$400.00 in local subscriptions was received. The \$1,000.00 church opened almost clear of debt.

The church was officially opened on April 11th, 1909, which was Easter Sunday. An overflowing congregation was recorded, and a hearty musical service was rendered.

The first couple to be married in this church was Mr. Seager Wheeler and Miss Lilly Martin, September, 1909. Also a few weeks later Mr. George Florence and Miss Margaret Bouskill were married.

Rev. Schorfield later moved to Moose Jaw.

Mr. A. Walker was then in charge for some months, succeeded by Mr. Goodwin and later by Mr. J. B. Bunting, all students.

In 1914 Rev. B. C. Garlick came to this Parish and was here until his death in February, 1919.

In the spring of 1919 Mr. Ashley came as a student for the summer and was followed by another student, Mr. Waite.

In 1921 Rev. Ashley returned to Maymont at the request of the congregation.

Mr. Bradshaw, then a student, followed Rev. Ashley in 1923 and during his stay here was ordained. He was here until May, 1928.

Rev. Johes came to Maymont from Wales in September, 1928, and held services until January, 1930.

In May, 1930, Rev. Cozens came and was our minister until June, 1937. During the summer of 1937 Mr. Simpson, a student, was in charge until September when Mr. Harry Greenhalch took the services until the arrival of Rev. Saunders in June, 1938.

In 1941 Rev. B. Saunders was moved to another locality and Rev. R. Crowder came. He was here until September, 1944. From then on the church was closed during the winter, but various students came for four month periods during the summer.

In 1945 Mr. H. Corbin came from Toronto.

In 1947 Mr. C. Burchill came also from Toronto.

In 1948 Mr. John Fralick came from Wycliff College, Toronto.

During 1949 and until 1953 various ministers and Lay Readers from North Battleford and Saskatoon were sent to conduct services.

In April of 1953 this church was put in charge of the Minister at Radisson, Rev. B. Saunders, but in 1954 Mr. Saunders was sent to take charge of the Anglican Church at Lloydminster. Since then various students from Emmanuel College in Saskatoon are taking services.

The interior of the church has been greatly improved by the addition of hand carved furniture. The Communion Table, Pulpit and Reading Desk are all the work of one man, Mr. Wilmot, a former pioneer resident of this Parish.

HISTORY OF THE MAYMONT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

The Foursquare Church was started in September, 1936, when Rev. Albert Bergman held a couple of meetings in the Calias School house, situated two and one-half miles south and three miles east of Maymont. Considerable interest was shown by the people of the adjacent Neepawa S.D. north of Calias.

Rev. Ruby Rice and Rev. Gladys Nelson were the first pastors; under their leadership services were moved to the home of Mr. J. L. Sloan in the Neepawa district. Additional services were also held in the home of N. W. and Mrs. W. E. Andrew of the Keystone dis-

trict and also in the home of Mrs. K. Holmes of the Grey School district. In these services many both old and young were converted to Christ. Six of these converts are now engaged in the ministry in various parts of Canada and U.S.A.

In August of 1940, owing to the illness of Mrs. J. L. Sloan, the Sunday Services were moved to the home of Mrs. K. Holmes in the Village of Maymont.

In March of 1943 the Foursquare Congregation purchased the old pool hall and barber shop, incidentally this was one of the pioneer buildings of the town. It was remodelled into a church and was dedicated on July 4th, 1943.

Many alterations have been made from time to time including the lowering of the church from a two-storey building to a one-storey, taking six feet of wall out. This material was used to aid in erecting a five-room parsonage at the rear of the church.

The pulpit has been supplied by various Pastors including Rev. Wilbur Curtus, Rev and Mrs. Russell Andrew, Rev. Joe Galbraith and the present pastors, Rev. and Mrs. Floyd Sloan who have pastored the work for ten years at two periods, four and six years, respectively.

HISTORY OF CATHOLIC CHURCH

First Mass was celebrated in the spring, possibly 1920, in the Orange Hall in Maymont.

During the same summer second Mass was celebrated in Mr. and Mrs. F. Porter's home and a meeting followed. At said meeting it was decided to build a church.

It was financed through the Bishop, the Bank in Maymont, and donations from local members.

The following were the first trustees: Mr. Fred Porter, Mr. J. Ducharme, Mr. E. Andrew, Mr. Dave Fouhy and Mr. Art Becker.

The foundation was dug and built by all the people in Maymont who donated their time, etc. Material was bought from Lumber Yard in Maymont.

The Church vestments were donated by some Church in Ontario through Mr. Fred Porter.

Mr. Newmyer was the first organist. The first choir consisted of three Newmyer children and two Becker children.

The first wedding was Genevieve Fouhy and Albert McGaffin in 1932.

The first funeral was Dorothy Fouhy in 1928.

The date of construction was 1926. The Church was built by Mr. Ted Wilmot.

HISTORY OF MAYMONT UNITED CHURCH

In the spring of 1903 Mr. R. N. Matheson, then a student in Arts, under the direction of the Presbytery of Prince Albert, began Missionary Work in the district, working from Great Bend, now Radisson. He preached at several points, often homes, visiting the new settlements as far as New Ottawa, now Speers.

The severity of the winter and depth of snow in the winter of '03 and '04 hampered travel and visiting in the sparsely settled

country. The summer of 1904 Mr. Matheson worked in the area from Fielding to Denholm and northward as far as the settlers had gone.

In 1905 Rev. J. C. Madill was appointed by the Home Mission Board to carry on the work for the Presbyterian Church in this area. Mr. Madill preached in various places, as did Mr. Matheson, performing many marriage ceremonies and some last rites. In 1906 the first Presbyterian Church was built, with assistance of many of the settlers.

In 1908 the three Charges of Fielding, Maymont and Ruddell were organized into a pastoral charge and extended an official call to Rev. Madill. In March, 1908 he was inducted as Pastor of the charge by Presbytery of Battleford.

It should be pointed out that almost without exception the settlers were very short of cash, so, particularly Mr. Madill, did some business on the side, selling and trading horses and settlers effects.

Also in 1908 Mr. W. G. Parker and Mr. H. Elliot were elected ordained and inducted as Elders. Mr. Madill resigned in November and moved to British Columbia.

The field was vacant until April 5th, 1909, when Rev. J. M. Fisher accepted a call and was inducted into the Pastoral charge at a service in Fielding Church.

In 1909 Mr. A. O. Hawkins was elected as Elder by the congregation at Maymont and was duly ordained and inducted. Members of the Board were A. A. Melrose, A. Reid, D. J. U. MacLennan with Wm. Andrew and F. T. McCorkle elected for three years. H. Carey was added in April and H. Elliot as secretary.

The first annual meeting of the congregation was held on January 20th, 1910. The financial statement showed that all obligations of the congregation had been met.

The Ladies' Aid reported and showed a balance of \$155.00 in the Bank. On January 31st W. J. Mawhinney was appointed secretary.

On February 23rd a meeting of the congregation was held. On motion of Wm. Andrew seconded by W. N. Melrose and passed, the Board was instructed to consider plans for a new Church, a building capable of seating 200-220 persons and costing \$1,800.00-\$2,000.00.

At a meeting of the congregation on June 13th plan No. 208 was accepted and arrangements made to dig basement and haul stones for the foundation. Many loads came from the fields south of town.

September 11th W. E. Cook and John Reid were elected to the building committee. Wm. Burroughs was engaged as builder.

The first meeting of the congregation was held in the newly constructed basement on March 9th, 1911. It showed 26 families under Pastoral care and 49 communicants on the roll.

A great deal of credit must be given to Rev. Fisher for his enthusiasm in promoting, encouraging and assisting in the building of the Church.

Sharon Church, Maymont, was completed and formally opened by Professor E. J. Oliver on November 10th, 1911.

The first Annual Meeting in the New Church on January 23rd, 1912, tendered a hearty vote of thanks to R. P. Blake of Winnipeg for the gift of a Pulpit Bible.

The Primary Class of the Sunday School contributed \$27.00 to

the first Lighting Plant System. In 1913 they paid the balance to total \$46.00.

Rev. Fisher resigned and left in February, 1913.

Norman Wright took the services from February until September 14th, 1913. John Eaton of Eaton District supplied a horse for his travelling.

Rev. R. Morgan was present at a meeting on October 23rd and became the next Pastor till going overseas. Then students filled in.

Miss Bohn gave the first report of the Missionary Society in 1915. February 21st, 1916, was the first report of the Willing Workers.

July 13th, 1917 Rev. N. McFedran was invited to the charge.

February 5th the Treasurer of the building fund reported the church was free of debt and the deed transferred to the trustees, J. J. Reid, W. N. Melrose and A. Reid.

The building fund statement of 1912 showed the cost of the church, excluding voluntary labor, but including interest, to be at that date, \$3,744.89, with about \$1,100.00 owing. So the final cost excluding volunteer labor would be around \$4,000.00.

On February 5th, 1919 the Board approved and prepared the basement for rent to the Public School Board for a Primary Room. The same year improvements to the furnace were made by the Ladies' Aid. Also new steps were built, Church repainted inside and out and seats installed.

Rev. Grant came in summer of 1920. He founded the Trail Rangers Group. However members were lost to the booming Boy Scout movement of those years.

Rev. A. C. Sibbald came in fall of 1922.

In 1924 at a meeting of representatives from Denholm, Ruddell, Fielding, Eastbourne and Maymont, it was decided to re-arrange the field, with Brada, Denholm and Ruddell together and Fielding Eastbourne and Maymont together.

April 8th, 1924 a meeting of the Board decided to purchase the house of W. J. Mawhinney, including garage, stable and three lots, for a manse.

First meeting of Church Board after entering the United Church was held on August 10th, 1925.

In summer of 1927 Rev. R. W. Hardy came to us.

The Church and Manse were paid in full on December 9th, 1928.

Cost of furnishing Manse in 1928 was \$790.20.

The Young Peoples Society was formed in 1930.

Supper was served at the Annual meeting from January, 1931.

Rev. H. Hamilton came in the summer of 1931.

In 1932 Electric lights were installed in the church off Town power.

There was a large group of organized Young People and the activity and interest helped many over these bad years.

In 1936 Rev. L. W. Schnell came with his special appeal to children and young people.

Rev. F. L. Myers came in 1937 on recommendation of Rev. Schnell.

The Church was repainted in 1939.

Young Womans' Service Club was organized in 1941.

In January, 1945 a fund for a new organ was started and on the last Wednesday in August a new Minshall Organ was dedicated.

In July 1949 New Church steps were built and the ceiling of the Church and the interior re-decorated.

In 1950 a Baptismal Font was given by Mrs. W. N. Melrose and dedicated to the memory of her husband.

Summer of 1951 a new furnace and duct work was installed in the Church. In 1952 an automatic oil burner was installed and additional wiring. The walls and ceiling of Church were insulated and covered with donnacona and the interior re-finished. A new sink, drain and cesspool were added at the Manse.

In 1953 a new cement floor was put in basement of Church and the basement walls refinished. Parts of roof and eavestroughs repaired. All new windows with tinted glass placed in Church. A new refrigerator installed at Manse. A slide projector was purchased for use of Sunday School and Church.

In 1954 the "Every Member Plan" of the United Church Observer was introduced.

New Identification Board placed on the Church showing name of Church, the Minister and time of service.

Exterior walls of Church were re-painted and cement approach laid to go with the new cement side-walk on the street.

Floor in the Manse kitchen was levelled and dining room repaired and new doors put in kitchen.

A motion was passed unanimously, "Expressing on behalf of the Maymont charge, session and board members, our pride and congratulations to Mr. Myers," on the address he delivered at Convocation in Grace United Church, Saskatoon to the Graduating Class of St. Andrew's College.

The United Church Conference of Saskatchewan honored Mr. Myers by electing him President of Conference for one year, 1954-55. The Session, Board and Congregation expressed their sincere appreciation and pleasure on this election. The three Charges and people from a wide district gathered to especially honor him.

Four additional pews were purchased this winter to help seat the consistently large congregation.

Minister for 1955—Rev. F. L. Myers, B.A.

Session—A. A. Melrose, H. Johnston, J. D. Blacklock, P. Parker, C. A. Reid.

Board of Stewards—E. J. Peden, E. K. Turner, Ken DeLong, Geo. Brehon, Jas. Steele and F. F. Mohler.

HISTORY OF THE UNITED CHURCH LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid was organized in 1909. The first record of a meeting, that is available, was held at the home of Mrs. Fisher on September 28th, 1910.

Mrs. D. MacLennan was President and Mrs. Bill Cook, Secretary. There were twenty members. The first bazaar was held on December 16th, 1910; the first Sports day supper on the 21st of June, 1912; the first Anniversary Supper on October, 1912. These events have been held every year since then. Proceeds of Ladies Aid activities throughout the years have been given generously to the maintenance of the

Manse and the Church. They have also contributed to other local causes such as the New Memorial Hall. They have supported the wider appeals of the Church in its Social Welfare, its Missionary Enterprises, the British and Foreign Bible Society, Religious Broadcasting, Church Camps for girls and boys and special appeals for the world's refugees.

Present membership 24. President—Mrs. N. Crawley, Secretary—Mrs. J. Rogers.

HISTORY OF THE UNITED CHURCH YOUNG WOMENS' SERVICE CLUB

The Service Club was organized in 1941 — first President—Mrs. Simmons, Vice-President—Mrs. N. Friedman, Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. C. A. Reid. Membership of 30.

This club takes in the young women of the district, married or single. They put on plays, bought drapes for Memorial Hall, planted trees around the Church, canvas for Cancer Fund and March of Dimes.

They have donated \$335.00 for church improvement; painted the church steps; bought one dozen new Hymn books; bought kitchen ware for church kitchen, also purchased curtains for Hall dining-room; and Kemtone for re-decorating the stage. The Club assist the Ladies Aid with the annual fowl supper and the bean supper and bazaar.

President for 1955—Betty Mohler, Vice-President—Binky Reid, Secretary-Treasurer—Shirley Miller.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY MAYMONT SHARON UNITED CHURCH

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1915.

Miss Flora Bohn gave the first W.M.S. report at the annual congregational meeting in 1915.

Some members at the time were as follows:—Mesdames A. Reid, Wm. Parker, Jas. Reid, Andrew Melrose, R. F. Johnston, Nan Melrose, Art Martin, Jas. Taylor, G. Holler and Mrs. MacLennan, also Miss Flora Bohn.

The only original member with active membership at the present time and who is also a Life member is Mrs. Andrew Reid.

Through the years the W.M.S. has looked after the leadership of younger groups.

The Mission Band was organized in 1916 and the Baby Band a few years later. C.G.I.T. was organized in 1923.

The W.M.S. is one organization in the Church which has carried on faithfully through the years in doing a commendable share in the larger work of the church. During the past few years it has exceeded the allocation of \$200.00 a year.

HISTORY OF MAYMONT HOMEMAKERS' CLUB

On February 6th, 1922, this club was organized in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, with a total membership of 39.

The first President was Mrs. Scott-Dudley, Secretary Mrs. Geo. Mohler.

First Director of Women's Work at the University was Miss A. DeLury.

Our guide is the Provincial Handbook of the Homemakers' Club and we pass our own bylaws.

During the years many worthwhile activities have been undertaken. A dressmaking course which lasted for 2½ years was started early in the club's life. The club has assisted TB clinics, dental clinics, baby clinics. A tonsil clinic was held in 1944. At this clinic 47 beds were provided for the patients, and lunch was served.

The club has encouraged a variety of projects for young people. Prizes and medals have been awarded for oratory contests in school. For several winters the members took turns sending a hot dish to school and sometimes helping to serve it at the noon lunch hour.

Needy families have been given assistance with warm clothing, quilts, layettes, and on one occasion a telephone was installed in the home of a seriously ill person. Girls have been sent to University Week, North Battleford and Saskatoon Fairs, and to a six weeks course at the Youth Training School.

The annual clean-up day at the cemetery was sponsored by the club. Trees have been planted, cinders placed on the drive and a gate and sign placed above it by the club.

Donations are given to many worthy causes and during the Second World War the club sent food, clothing and gifts to a family of six in England.

There is also a wheel chair which the club rents to anyone in need of it for \$1.00 a month.

We have catered on many occasions for Wheat Pool delegates, wedding receptions, a diamond wedding, and served 17 banquets for the Agricultural Society.

The Memorial Hall kitchen was partly furnished, curtains were furnished, and a payment was made on the piano of \$216.00 donated by the club, and proceeds of lunch sold at the Memorial Hall Carnival turned over to the Hall Fund.

Five plays have been directed and presented.

The gala event of the season for 18 years was the St. Patrick's Day Ball. The beautiful hand-made decorations which added so much to the appearance of the hall were made by Mrs. G. Mohler and Mrs. R. F. Johnston.

Bridge parties were put on in the Orange Hall and the Tea Cup Inn.

Programmes at club meetings deal with a wide range of topics, namely, Agriculture, Arts and Literature, Education, Home Economics, International Relations, Legislation and Public Health.

Each convener is allowed to present her topic twice during the year, by paper, quizzes, films or demonstrations.

Delegates are always sent to the Provincial and District Conventions and to the Fall Rally.

Donations are given and sent to many worthy and needy causes.

The club celebrated their 30th anniversary in 1952 with a banquet and social evening. The first President of the club, Mrs. Scott-Dudley, read the minutes of the first meeting, and four members were presented with life memberships—Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Butterfield, Mrs. Mohler and Mrs. R. F. Johnston. Guests were all members available

who joined the club in 1922 and their husbands. Mrs. Helene Ducie from the University was guest speaker.

For many years the club sponsored a Homecraft Club. It was supervised by one of our members.

Chapter 5

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

One of the most successful valuable achievements of this community since its very early years has been its Agricultural Society.

The Mayfield and Douglas Agricultural Society was organized around the year 1909 with Mr. Emil Richard elected the first president and Mr. Percy Knowles secretary.

The first agricultural fair was held in August of that year on the grounds of the race track, which was located one-quarter of a mile south of the village. From this small beginning it went on to become one of the most important fairs on the prairie, outclassing many of the B class fairs in quantity and quality of exhibits.

About the year 1916 the directors decided to move the location of the fair north to Richard, where it would be more central for the two municipalities, Maymont being only five miles from the south boundary of the Municipality of Mayfield. The change made very little difference in the number of exhibits from the Maymont district, and attracted more competition from the north part of the Municipality of Douglas. There were many very good horse and cattle breeders in the area and competition was very keen. In addition to livestock, there were competitions in garden produce, home cooking, needlework and school work, as well as in the arts.

As early as 1909 an agricultural society banquet was held in Maymont, but in November, 1922, the first banquet and ball was held in Richard. This affair was organized by Tom Sawyer and J. McPherson. They were unsuccessful in their efforts to interest the Homemakers' Club in catering, so hired two women to do the cooking and managed to produce a very successful evening. One hundred and eighty-three guests attended the banquet which was followed by a program and dance. Prof. Rayner from the University and three other speakers assisted in making the program very interesting and educational.

At the next directors' meeting it was decided to make the banquet an annual affair to be held in Maymont and Richard on alternate years. This practice has been followed up to the present, with the Homemakers' clubs of Richard and Maymont doing the catering alternately. Occasionally the banquet has been held in Speers, where the Speers Ladies' Organization catered.

By 1926 the prize list in the annual fair had grown to be so long that the directors decided that it was necessary to have a catalogue in book form made. Tom Sawyer was delegated to go to Saskatoon to make the necessary arrangements. Professor Rayner was so impressed with the idea that a copy of the catalogue was put on the notice board at the university during farm week as an example for other agricultural societies.

In addition to the annual agricultural summer fairs the society has sponsored a worthy number of other programs and competitions through the years. During the twenties an annual winter poultry show and seed fair was held in Richard, which attracted much interest with good results. Field days, stock judging, poultry culling, standing grain competitions, garden competitions and plowing matches have all been included in the program. In 1924 a baby clinic was held to add to the variety. Forty-three babies were examined. This society is particularly proud of the achievements of the boys who have represented this area in the farm boys' camps at the North Battleford, Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert fairs. The teams from the Mayfield and Douglas Agricultural Society have been consistent winners and the shelves of many of the farm homes are liberally adorned with trophies won by its sons in the province-wide competitions. The Dove brothers, Ben and John, earned the honor of representing Saskatchewan at the Toronto Royal. The success of the boys in the farm boys' camps was due largely to the generous and untiring efforts of Douglas Japp, who, until his death, devoted a great deal of his time to coaching and instructing the teams. In appreciation of his work with the boys the Agricultural Society presented him with an arm chair. J. D. Blacklock also took an active part in the club work, along with several others. The value of the farm boys' camp training is indicated by the unusually large number of young men from this area who have obtained agricultural degrees and diplomas at the University of Saskatchewan. All of them will testify that it was their experience in the club work which first stirred their interest in scientific agriculture. It is now the policy at the annual agricultural banquet to have an address given by one of the local agricultural graduates.

In 1937 when crop and financial conditions were so discouraging it was decided to discontinue the annual summer fair. Since then, with the advent of power farming and the trend towards more specialized grain farming, interest in livestock has decreased to the point where it is felt that the North Battleford B class fair offers adequate opportunity for those who still wish to exhibit. The chief interest of the society now is in supporting the 4H clubs, and working in co-operation with the agricultural representative. Through these mediums it is still a vital force in enriching and improving agricultural practices and community life.

AGRICULTURE HISTORY

The district around Maymont was settled mostly by people from other parts of Canada and the U.S.A. and emigrants from the British Isles. Some of the settlers from Manitoba, Eastern Canada and the U.S.A. brought with them considerable farming equipment and livestock. Others again had no equipment and started on their homesteads with a yoke of oxen, a walking plow and maybe a few sections of harrows. A great deal of prairie was broken up by oxen. From the walking plow the country progressed to the sulky and the two-furrow gang plow and then the engine-drawn gangs. Of late years the plows have, to a large extent, been succeeded by the one-way disk harrow and the combined disk and seeder. In the early days it was necessary to get on the land as early as possible as the danger



Threshing

of frost was always present and the seeding machinery of those times did not permit the large daily acreage of today.

As to wheat varieties sown, Red Fife was the most popular. It was succeeded by Marquis and it was followed by Thatcher. After the crop was put in the farmers turned to breaking more prairie. It was several years before the practice of summerfallowing became necessary. Besides breaking prairie the homesteader had to put up hay in preparation for the coming winter. If there were any sloughs a lot of hay could be cut in them, otherwise it was necessary to cut prairie wool—the grass that covered all the high land. This made a high quality hay and it cured well without being cut. It was common practice to turn the horses out for the winter and if there was lots of prairie wool under the snow the horses would paw for it and be rolling fat in the spring.

The self binder, price \$225.00, was the harvesting machine of those days. The crop was then stooked to await the arrival of a threshing machine. Graham Turnbull of Ruddell had a J. I. Case steamer and did most of the threshing around Maymont in 1907-1908. Turner Bros. purchased a Case steam outfit in 1909. The crew consisted of ten stook teams, engineer, separator man, tank man, cook, and two spike pitchers, the farmer furnishing the teams necessary to take care of the threshed grain. The crew ate in the cook car and slept in a caboose. This outfit, with good grain, could thresh from 2,500 to 2,800 bushels of wheat a day and up to 5,000 or 6,000 bushels of oats. Their day would start at 6 a.m. sharp with one hour for dinner and quit at 7 p.m. Lunch was served at the machine during the morning and afternoon but was eaten on the fly. Until 1909 all the threshing was done by steam or horse power, but in that year several portable gas engines came into the country and in a few years the gas and oil burning tractors were in general use for both threshing and farming. The self binder and the threshing machine have in

recent years been replaced to a large extent by the combine harvester thresher.

In the early days the farmers kept a few cattle and pigs, principally for their own use, and raised what horses they needed. Today, however, Maymont can be called a mixed farming community.

It has come a long way from the sod or log shack of fifty years ago to its present prosperous condition serviced by such modern conveniences as electric light and power and telephones.

The first threshing on the Langley farm was done by John Swain in 1905. The engine was fired with logs. The Langleys homesteaded in 1903. They broke about 200 acres in 1904. They bought their own outfit in 1911 or 1912, employing about 20 men and a cook. The men started work at 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from noon till 7 p.m., with a lunch in between. The outfit threshed 3,500 bushels per day of wheat, and on a record day as high as 4,200 bushels. A record day of oats and barley was 8,000 bushels.

Chapter 6

LEGION

Maymont Branch of the Canadian Legion No. 176 received its charter on April 25, 1932. The first president was C. A. Coleman and the first secretary T. Woods. Charter members were Wm. Dawson, Stanley Thorsteinson, T. B. Knight, John Morgan, S. Dolden, Robt. Downing, Rev. R. W. Cozens, Robt. Neill, W. J. Cash.

After formation of the branch, the next problem was where to hold the monthly meetings. First the municipal office was used, as well as the bank, and the booth on the sports grounds. As the membership grew larger, these places became too small, and then someone got the bright idea that the branch should have a place of its own. After considerable discussion, the members decided to build a place large enough to accommodate a gathering which was too small to warrant the use of the Orange Hall.

Stan. Thorsteinson and D. Campbell were head carpenters and with the help of other members the present hall was erected and opened on Armistice Day in the year 1933.

Though not large in numbers, this branch of the Canadian Legion has remained active through the years and played a useful part in community life. It has assisted its comrades and their dependents through difficult periods and sponsored many activities for the benefit of others. In its work it has enjoyed the co-operation and assistance of the Women's Auxiliary.

LADIES' AUXILIARY, B.E.S.L.

The Canadian Legion Auxiliary was organized in the year 1933 with 11 charter members, namely: Mesdames Margaret Cameron, Florence Cozens, Ethel Neill, Bertha Dolden, Grace McLeish, Mildred Knight, Minnie Coleman, Dorothy Thorsteinson, Ellen Cornish, Lillian Andrew, Alice E. Bean.

The aims and objects of the auxiliary are to assist veterans of both World Wars, especially those who are sick and disabled in hos-

pitals and help the local branch in every way possible. Donations are made yearly to head office and this money is distributed for comforts to veterans in mental hospitals, D.V.A. hospitals, etc. Parcels were sent monthly to veterans serving overseas during World War II, and veterans now serving overseas receive parcels at Christmas and Easter. During the war we adopted an orphan in England and parcels were sent to her until she was old enough to go out to work for herself. Donations have also been made to various funds, including the Cancer Fund, TB Fund, Flood Relief Fund and the new Community Memorial Hall. The auxiliary has just recently completed the Home Defence Survey for the villages of Maymont, Fielding, Ruddell and Denholm. Besides all these other commitments, we have helped the branch to furnish the Legion Hall and have helped towards the cost of laying tile on the floor which is a great improvement to the appearance of the hall.

From the outside it may not seem as if we have been too active in the community, but we have done a lot of good work, especially for the veterans, as after all, we are a veterans' organization.

Chapter 7

SPORTS

Maymont has always been a good community for sports. For years the annual baseball tournament of the 24th of May has attracted large crowds from far distant points. Hockey, football, curling, broomball, tennis and golf have all been a part of community life. Probably the reason why sports have always been so popular here is that the district was settled by a collection of sports-minded pioneers.

The first organized sporting event was held as early as 1904, in the form of a basket picnic on land north-east of the town which later became the farm of the late Percy Bouskill. Settlers came from as far as 20 miles on foot, horseback, ox and horse-drawn wagons and even a few luxurious top buggies with snappy drivers to take in the big day. Little time was lost in getting the competitions under way, highlights being an impromptu football match and a baseball game featuring the New Ottawa settlement from east of Speers versus the local talent. The scores have been lost to history, but what the events lacked in technique, you may be sure were made up for in enthusiasm. Foot races, tug-of-war and a host of other competitions were indulged in, everyone capable of self-propulsion taking part. For the women, they enjoyed not only participating in the athletic events, but also the rare opportunity to chat with others of their own sex and exchange experiences and recipes until time to go home to do their evening chores. The annual picnic was for many years the chief social event of the year.

The first skating rink was made in 1907, and was a very worthy achievement considering all the water had to be hauled the five miles up hill from the river, all by volunteer labor. Those donating their time and their teams were given free meals at the hotel, and the teams were given free livery at the livery barn operated by Melrose and Reid. There was a lot of hockey talent among the first pioneers. The first



Hockey Team

team organized that year took the measure of every team between and including Langham to Battleford. Candidates for the hockey hall of fame are Dr. Scratch, the three Andrew brothers, Bill, Oliver and Lew, Walter Mawhinney, Fred Carveth, Archie Robertson, Harold Bride and Herb Fallow.

A good many of the settlers had played baseball before coming to this district, so there was plenty of baseball savvy in the first team which was formed the following summer. They seldom met their equal. Some of the original players were Doc. Scratch, Geo. Florence, Charles Wright, Walter Mawhinney, Charlie Bride, Rabbit, Earl Lockridge, and Harold Bride.

Football was a very popular game in the early days, one reason being that the only equipment required was a ball, a pair of boots with the toes still intact, and a good set of lungs. It was not uncommon for a homesteader to walk behind his plow all day, and then drive eight or ten miles in a wagon to have a game of football in the long summer evening.

In 1908 a half-mile race track was made on Section 29, just south of where the village now stands. Ploughs, disks and harrows were donated for the construction, and as with the skating rink, all labor was voluntary, the Reids, Melrose and Andrew brothers being particularly active in this project. Both harness and running races were very popular, and competition with horse owners from the neighboring settlements had an enthusiastic racer who owned a good horse or two. R. B. Harris of Fielding had "St. Almo," driven by Bill Shanks. Old-timers will remember Bill on the cart with the inevitable half-smoked cigar in his mouth. Sam Miller also of Fielding owned "Harry B.," and

for many years kept a stable of good blood horses. Charley Johnston of Ruddell had a very fine horse known as "Lord Roberts," and Joe Zimmerman of Radisson always provided good competition. From across the river Spinney Hill was always represented by entries from Bert Lehner's stable. The most outstanding horse of the bunch was "Old Freak," owned by Bill Sowden of the hotel in Maymont. Not renowned for beauty, Old Freak more than made up for this minor defect by the manner in which he could cover the ground.

In addition to harness races every sports day, there were always at least three heats of running races which attracted competition from more distant points. For years Lew Sharp from North Battleford attended all the races with two good blood mares which generally took away first money. The fastest runner ever in the district was "Miss Lapell," owned by Jim McGaffin of Baljennie.

A special event in the running class was the pony races for horses under fourteen hands in height. "Dandy," the little gray cayuse, ridden by Jock Stephen, was never defeated in this class and he often sent well-bred racers back to their stables with sheepish looks on their faces.

Besides the horse racing, the early sports days featured a multitude of other competitions such as ball games, foot races, pole vaulting and other track and field events. Nearly everyone took part in some form of competition or other, which is a far cry from the present day ball tournaments where only a few participate and the rest are only spectators.

The winter months did not put a stop to the recreational pursuits of the pioneers. The skating rink was always well patronized and parties and dances in the country schools and farm homes were always on the go.

In 1936 a curling rink was built under the leadership of Rev. L. W. Schnell.

Television was still fifty years in the future, but local talent provided as thrilling wrestling matches as anything seen on the screen in 1955. Grunt and groan grapplers such as Bert Kruge, Lee Fickler, Tiger Ross, Dogie Best and others used to hold the large crowds spellbound.

Maymont built its curling rink in 1936. Rev. Schnell is credited with being the person who had the most influence in its origin.

The cost was approximately 1,200.00, which was considered a small fortune in those years. Twenty-nine shareholders bought shares worth \$350.00; \$250.00 was borrowed from Mr. Geo. Holler. The lumber was purchased from the McCorkle Lumber Yard on a note which was paid in 1938. The rink was built entirely by volunteer labor. The first curling season of 1936-37 had 16 pairs of rocks, bought from Davidson, Scott, Rabbit Lake, Senlac, Saskatoon and North Battleford. These rocks were later sold to individual shareholders. The first bonspiel in 1937 had 30 rinks competing. Luth Ballsrud skipped and won the first bonspiel. He was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gray and Miss Freda Mickleburg—the latter now Mrs. Geo. Gray.

The first year ended with \$950.00 owing and 122 active members.

The rink was wired in 1937 but did not pass inspection. However, it was re-inspected in 1938 and was approved.

The first president of the Curling Club was Rev. L. W. Schnell, with Mr. N. Whitaker the first secretary. Mr. N. Crawley was the first caretaker. By the end of 1938 Mr. McCorkle had been paid. In 1943 Mr. Holler had also been paid his loan of \$450.00 (another \$200.00 had been borrowed in 1938). General mixed bonspiels have been held every year since 1936. The names of Caton, C. Friedman, John Hope, Sid Dolden and N. Whitaker will long be remembered by the older generation of curlers.

A new brick siding was put on the rink in 1952 by volunteer labor. In 1954 sixteen pairs of matched rocks were purchased from the Queen City Curling Stone Co. at a cost of \$1,100.00. The rocks were also paid for during the same year.

Thirty-two rinks entered the 1954 bonspiel held in January. The bonspiel was won by Mr. E. Broom, assisted by Mr. F. Miller, Mr. D. Brehon and Mr. Grant Ross.

Chapter 8

BUSINESS PLACES 1905-1955



Bean's Store

The first store in the Maymont district was operated by Mr. F. T. McCorkle at his farm house one-half mile north of Mr. T. Sawyer's buildings on the opposite side of the road. (The house was moved and is now the home of Mr. Harvey Johnston.) Supplies were hauled from Saskatoon.

In 1905 the first general store in the village was operated by Mr. Digman and Mr. McLean in a shack south of the present Maymont C.N.R. station.

The same year Mr. E. W. Bean had lumber hauled from Radisson and built the first store (the one now in operation) on the north side of the track. This store was built before the railroad came through,

and was opened for business early in 1905. He also had the first lumber yard in Maymont. The first post office conducted its business in this store, and Mr. Bean was the assistant postmaster.

Mr. Bean passed away in 1907 and the business was operated by his wife, Mrs. Alice Bean, with the assistance of the following managers: Mr. G. H. Martin, Mr. H. McDougal, Mr. W. Philpot, and her son, Alan Bean. The latter has acted as manager since 1925, and has carried on the business in the original store since his mother passed away in 1949.

The store now operated by Mr. T. C. Saunders was built in 1906 by Mr. John Reid and Mr. Bob McLaren, operating until approximately 1917 when Mr. J. Patterson bought the business.

Mr. Jim Reid had the original butcher shop in the basement of this store. Other butcher shop managers were: Mr. Russell, Mr. A. Dementer, Mr. Friesen, Mr. R. Anger, Mr. Werb, Mr. Lane, Messrs. Merkley and Lane, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Johnston and Mr. Ted Saunders.

Mr. Ken DeLong built and opened the first locker plant in Maymont during the fall of 1948.

A third general store was opened in the hotel by Mr. Werb. He sold the business to Mr. J. Margolin. The latter sold it to Mr. Newbeiger. Mr. Werb rebought the business and sold it again to Mr. Merkley. The latter took Mr. Lane into partnership and moved the business across the street and bought Mr. J. Patterson's business. Later Mr. Werb bought out Merkley and Lane. Mr. H. Friedman then bought the business and later sold it to Mr. N. Friedman. He sold it to Mr. L. Karpan and it was finally bought by Mr. Ted Saunders, who is now the present owner and operator.

HARDWARE STORES

Mr. Corneth and Mr. Stepler opened a hardware business in the present site of Mr. VanDerHaegen's store. The business closed for a period and for a short time Mr. Warden operated a confectionery store in this building.

In 1918 the hardware store was reopened by Mr. J. D. Blacklock. In 1945 it was sold to Mr. M. VanDerHaegen, who is at present operating the business.

DRUG STORE

Dr. J. R. Scratch had the first drug store. It was later purchased by Mr. W. Mawhinney, who sold it to Mr. Bob Merrell. Mr. Mawhinney rebought the business and sold it again to Mr. J. Hope, who finally closed the business. The building was purchased by Mr. Frank Langley and made into a residence.

RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

Mr. Ebey operated the first "eating place," and Mr. Len Carey had the first restaurant (situated where Mr. Corkle had his garage). The business was sold to Mr. W. Ward. He again sold it to Mr.

Charley Wing (the first Oriental restaurant operator in Maymont). Later the business had the following managers: Messrs. Cockburn, Jack Suong, Ed. Broom, Wes. Rolfe, D. Greenslade, Hegland, N. Crawley, Ted Raw, Carlton, and Mike Raw.

Mrs. McNulty, Mrs. Price and Mr. Hayman, each respectively operated a restaurant across the street called "Tea Cup Inn."

Three Orientals operated the hotel restaurant for a period, better known as "Fat," "Cook" and "Laundry."

The business was sold and managed by the following: Mr. Sam Williams, Mr. Swidrovich, Mr. J. Cash, Tom (Oriental) and Mr. Yee, who is the present operator.

Another item of interest in connection with restaurants was that Mr. Patterson operated an ice cream parlor in connection with his store, and he made his own ice cream.

LUMBER YARDS

Mr. E. W. Bean had the first stock of lumber in Maymont. He sold out to Mr. F. McCorkle.

Rev. J. C. Madill and Mr. John Nugent owned lumber yards.

By 1908 Mr. McCorkle had the only lumber business. He continued until 1942 when the stock was sold to Wentz Lumber Co., Saskatoon, and the yard was closed. Later Mr. Antonento built a lumber yard on the site of Mr. Wes Rolfe's house. Later he moved the business to the corner lot south of the Four Square Church. He also built a grocery store here which closed at the end of a year.

POST OFFICE

Mr. Wm. Andrew was the first postmaster at Maymont and the post office was in Mr. Bean's store, with Mr. Bean as the assistant. Then followed Mr. McLaren, who furnished his own office and was postmaster until 1918. He was followed by Mr. Stan. Thorsteinson until 1920, then Mr. Philpot until 1925, and finally Mr. C. Coleman, who is the present postmaster.

TELEPHONES

The first long distance was handled by Mr. Wm. Ward in his restaurant.

The first Maymont Rural Telephone Co. was formed in 1914 and operated by Mr. Christfield, followed by Mr. Bob Downing and later by Mr. A. Cassidy, who is the present operator.

BANK

The first bank in Maymont was the Northern Crown Bank, opened in 1910 in the hotel. Later the present building was erected. In 1914 the Northern Crown amalgamated with Crown Bank. The latter sold to the Royal Bank. In 1925 the business was purchased by the Imperial Bank. The first manager was Mr. Trotter, followed respectively by Messrs. Hales, Regan, Moffat, Griffin, McLeish, Riches, and Bergman, the present manager.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

In 1908 Mr. Rob. Davidson built the first blacksmith shop, with Mr. J. McKenzie as his partner. A year later Mr. Davidson bought Mr. McKenzie's interest. In 1912 he sold his business and the year following the business was sold to Mr. F. Anderson, who shortly after sold it to Mr. H. Harkness. The following year he sold out to Mr. McBratney and his son. In 1919 the business was sold to Mr. Hugh Harkness, who continued until 1927 when Mr. Haemstedt became the owner. The business was again sold to Mr. J. Hutchinson, who is still with the business.

In 1908 Mr. A. Varachek opened another shop, but was in business for only a year.

BARBER SHOPS AND POOLROOMS

Mr. Jim Patterson built the first barber shop and poolroom in 1907 (the building which is now the Four Square Church). He was succeeded by his son Gordon and later followed by Mr. A. Anger, Mr. Knight, Mrs. Anger, and Mr. Broom, who is now the operator in the premises once called "Tea Cup Inn."

Stump Brothers operated a poolroom in Mr. Ward's restaurant for a time. Mr. Bill Sowden also operated a poolroom in the hotel.

BEAUTY PARLORS

Mrs. Anger operated a beauty parlor in connection with her husband's barber shop.

Mrs. Ida Hickman and Mrs. Ed. Prynault both had beauty shops for short periods in Merrell's Drug Store and Maymont Hotel respectively.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Mr. Percy Barrett was the local photographer in the early years. He has left a splendid history in pictures—of the early days.

He was followed by Miss Patterson and Mr. Nic Harvey.

DENTIST

In 1905 Dr. J. M. Fry opened an office and practised dentistry for a year or two in the building which later became our first Municipal Office.

LIVERY AND FEED BARN

The first livery and feed stable was built in Maymont by Mr. Asa Noakes in the early spring of 1905.

August, 1905, Rev. J. C. Madill built a livery and sales barn where the blacksmith shop now stands.

In the spring of 1907 Melrose Brothers built another barn just east of Mr. E. Sykes' present residence. They bought the other barn from Rev. J. C. Madill, and took Andrew Reid into partnership.

In 1911 Melrose Brothers and Reid sold the barns to A. D. Melrose and J. M. Vessey. The barn built by Rev. J. C. Madill was burned in October, 1913, with the loss of 14 head of horses (one team was valued at \$1,200.00), also all harness and feed.

In spring of 1914 J. M. Vessey bought interest of A. D. Melrose and in spring of 1915 sold barn to Frank Gillatt. In 1920 Frank Gillatt sold barn to Christfield and Martin. In spring of 1922 the barn was burned. They built another barn just east of where the burned one stood.

In 1925 Mr. J. M. Martin purchased interest of H. Christfield and in the spring of 1927 Mr. J. M. Martin sold to Mr. Mustoway. In 1928 Mr. Mustoway sold to E. Sykes, who sold to E. Broom in 1952 and who still runs the business.

HOTELS

In the summer and fall of 1906 Mr. Mike Tynan built the hotel. In 1907 Duncan Gillespie operated the hotel for about one year. In May, 1908, Tynan sold to Mr. W. B. Sowden. In June, 1909, Mr. Claud Sowden purchased an interest and the hotel was run as Sowden Bros. In 1911 Sowden Brothers sold to Brink and Pernala. Shortly after Mr. W. B. Sowden took over the interest of Mr. Brink and hotel was run as Snowden and Pernala.

In the spring of 1913 the hotel was sold to Mr. A. D. M. Home. In the spring of 1914 he sold to a Mr. Benstead. In the fall of 1914 Sowden and Pernala took over the hotel and started a poolroom.

In the fall of 1915 Mr. W. B. Sowden took over Mr. Stan Pernala's interest and has been running the hotel ever since, except for eight months when it was rented to Robt. Hunt, and one month it was rented to Mr. Harry Cornish.

In 1946 Mr. Frank Feeley purchased the hotel.

GARAGES AND GASOLINE BOWSERS

The first garage was owned and operated by Mr. Norman Buckley which was complete with gasoline bowser located on the East-side of Main Street; this site has been occupied with a garage and Bowser up to the present date, 1955.

Mr. Buckley took Robert Downing into partnership with him in 1918. After operating for sometime Mr. Buckley sold his share of the business to Mr. John Thrower and then moved to Vancouver, B.C. Mr. Downing and Mr. Thrower continued with their garage and oil business until Mr. Thrower sold-out to Mr. R. Morrow. Next, Mr. R. Morrow sold-out to his partner, Mr. R. Downing, and moved to Cloverdale, B.C.

Mr. Downing now expanded his business to include a lighting plant and supplied light to the business section and several homes in the village. Mr. R. Downing decided to move to Chilliwack, B.C., and he sold his business to Mr. F. T. McCorkle, who operated the garage and lighting plant until he sold-out to Johnson Bros. in 1941, which in turn sold to Mr. J. Cash. Around this time the Saskatchewan Power Corporation bought the power plant and brought their power lines into the village.

Mr. J. Cash sold his garage to Mr. Louis Karpan, who completely rebuilt it into the present first-class garage in 1948. In 1954 Mr. Karpan built a first-class Esso station on the new highway with modern living quarters, restrooms and lunch counter, surrounded with nicely landscaped grounds.

On the West-side of Main Street Mr. J. D. Blacklock operated a Bowser for many years in connection with his hardware store and I.H.C. implement agency. Another Bowser was operated on the West-side of Main Street by Mr. N. Cornish for some time. The Locker Plant is located there now.

On 1st Avenue West of Main St. in 1931 Mr. Ed. Bur built a garage and does garage work and oil sales. Also, on 1st Avenue West Mr. Fred Porter and Sons, Sheridan and Freddy, operated a Bowser and oil sales in connection with their John Deere Agency. They sold to Mr. Sam Keeler, who then sold to Mr. James Rogers, who is our present agent for all Imperial Oil products. On the corner of Main St. and 1st Avenue East Mr. Thos. Woods built a service station and garage in 1936. Mr. Woods is our present agent for all North Star Oil products.

Chapter 9

THE HISTORY OF THE ORANGE HALL

The Maymont Orange Lodge was organized on April 27, 1907. They met in various places with varying degrees of success, some of the places of meeting being the first church, which stood near the site of the present Community Hall, Grey School and the basement of the United Church.

Owing to the lack of a suitable meeting place the lodge decided to build a hall, this being in June of 1914. The first record of it being requested for use for any purpose other than the lodge activities was in August, 1914, when the athletic club asked for its use to hold a public dance.

During the First World War, 1914-1918, it was used very extensively by the Red Cross for various entertainments, as well as being used for travelling vaudeville and picture shows.

During October, 1918, a stage was built onto the east end of the hall and a new piano was purchased. Then in late February and early March of 1919 the ante-rooms to the west end were added, and it was at this time that the members of the I.O.O.F. started to use the hall for their meetings and continued to use it for many years.

Up until 1921 the hall was lighted by the use of gas lamps, but during that year Robt. Downing, the garage owner of that time, installed a Delco lighting plant in the garage and the hall was wired for electric lights and connected to this plant.

In 1923 a welcome change was made when 250 new chairs were purchased, replacing the home-made benches in use until that time. In 1925 a projection room was added to comply with the then existing cinematographic regulations, and from that time on for many years weekly picture shows were held. As well as being used for dances and picture shows it was also used for all types of public meetings, and many fine concerts and plays of local talent were held in the hall, it continuing to be used as a public hall until the new Community Hall was opened, when the old hall was sold to Mr. T. Turner for use as a residence in 1949.



Memorial Hall

MAYMONT COMMUNITY MEMORIAL HALL

The rehabilitation committee composed of twenty-two citizens called a public meeting on April 23, 1945, at 8.30 p.m., in the Orange Hall, to decide on a suitable project or projects for a war memorial.

Of the many projects brought up at this meeting, a large majority of the hundred-odd citizens were in favor of a Memorial Hall, to be called "The Maymont Community Memorial Hall Co-operative Association Limited." Shares at \$5.00 per share.

A committee of four was appointed to sell shares.

A committee of two was appointed to purchase lots. Three lots were purchased where the hall now stands.

The following were the first directors on the Memorial Hall: C. A. Brehon, Ken. DeLong, Geo. Holler, Thos. Turner, Chas. Randall, Herb Johnston, A. A. Melrose, Thos. Sawyer and C. A. Reid.

The first officers were: President, Chas. Randall; vice-president, Geo. Holler; secretary-treasurer, Ken. DeLong.

Western Construction Co. was interviewed regarding the digging of basement, which they did free of charge.

Committees were appointed to look into the advisability of buying some grain annexes, but this idea was banished.

A committee was appointed to see about procuring gravel, and in November, 1945, we held a bee and hauled considerable gravel from Fielding pit, some of the truckers receiving gas and oil for their trucks.

December 31, 1945, we had \$2,794.29 in the bank.

At a shareholders' meeting on January 23, 1946, the directors were recommended to employ the services of an architect. Gilbert and Webster of Saskatoon were employed. When we received the plans a directors' meeting was called, together with 10 ladies, repre-

senting the Maymont Ladies' Organizations, to discuss plans and to have changes, if any, made. A committee made several trips between the local organizations and Gilbert and Webster's before the present plans were decided on. Building 40'x76', full size basement.

In March, 1946, a ladies' work committee was organized that did much to help with finances by teas, home cooking sales and sale of quilts, etc.

In June, 1946, a committee was appointed to organize a crew of men, trucks and tractor to haul gravel. A real crew turned out. We went north-west of Maymont on the correction line, rigged up a ramp so we could load the trucks by tractor and slip, and in short order we had plenty of gravel.

In the meantime we had ordered a car of lumber from our then local lumberman.

We procured iron rods for reinforcing cement foundation from people that had bought elevator annexes. We procured nails wherever we could, as nails were hard to get. We bought a little barn on the west side of town to store supplies in. We ordered a car of cement and stored it in the barn. At a later date we sold the barn.

A committee was appointed to procure as much material as possible that we can use from the North Battleford Airport. There we procured doors and windows and a large quantity of 1½x6-inch centre match.

At our January 18, 1947, annual shareholders' meeting, we had all this material that we had procured paid for and a balance on hand of \$1,146.17.

In the winter of 1947, while we were at North Battleford Airport procuring material, we were told by one of the officials there that there may be a chance for us to procure an H Hut. This H Hut consisted of two buildings 24'x120' long and one building 24'x60' long. We immediately put our order in for one.

We devoted most of our time for the next few months to raising funds. We ran the footings for the basement. We waited to hear about the H Hut.

Word finally came from the Saskatchewan Reconstruction Corporation, Regina, that they would sell us the H Hut. We immediately held a meeting on August 5, 1947, at 7 a.m. at one of the director's home to discuss financing. It was decided to borrow from any private individual that would loan to us.

I might say here that our finances up to now came from concerts or other entertainment, donations from various organizations and the sale of shares, which amounted to from \$5.00 to \$200.00 per share, not too many at \$200.00. Also some of our local business firms donated articles to be raffled. But now we had to borrow, so a committee was appointed to see what could be done along that line, and at our August 23, 1947, meeting this committee reported that they had cheques on hand to the value of \$1,600.00 to purchase an H Hut, and the treasurer was authorized to forward a cheque at once to Regina for buildings. (These loans, some were paid back, some asked for part of it back, and some just called another donation.)

One man was appointed to take charge of the taking down of these buildings, to look after the sale of surplus material, and manage the construction of the Memorial Hall.

On August 28, 1947, we started dismantling the H Hut at North Battleford Airport, and we would have all the way from two to 17 journey up there every morning and back at night. We all took our dinners, we had a two-burner gasoline stove and we made tea. We saved some of our dinner for the 3.30 lunch, when we would have tea again.

We saved and bunched shingles in bundles, four bundles to the thousand, and take it all through there was very little waste material.

On September 27th we quit work for the winter at the airport, and at that time had dismantled all of one 120' building and all of the 60' building but one ply of lumber.

Great praise should be given these people, the way they turned out morning after morning, drive up there, some of them in the back of a truck, work hard all day and home again at night. Special mention can be made of one man who worked 19 days out of a possible 23 days, and two high school boys that worked four holidays out of a possible five.

On September 29th we started to make forms for the foundation of hall, hiring one carpenter and one helper. There was a lot of gratis work here. When we were ready to run the cement we made a bee and ran the walls in two days. We quit work for the winter on November 10th. At that time we had basement floor in, ground floor laid and walls of building up with one ply lumber.

Great praise is due the women of the community. They took turns, two each afternoon bringing coffee and lunch, which was much appreciated.

Financial statement at December 31, 1947, showed our funds had dwindled to \$468.23, but we had a lot of material for sale.

On April 21, 1948, we started back to the airport to dismantle more buildings and volunteer labor came to the front as always. The roads were really terrible this spring. One night we were coming home, when we got two miles west of Ruddell, there was about a half a mile of road under water and we could see one car stalled in the middle of it. The driver of our truck stopped, one of the occupants of the truck asked why he was stopping, the driver asked if they thought he had better try it. One reply was, "I can't milk my cows sitting here," so we started through, got half way and the motor conked out. The fellow that was worrying about his milk was really in a sweat, but by taking off our fan belt we were able to proceed to the east landing and everyone was happy.

After that experience while No. 5 highway was bad, we travelled north to highway No. 40 and in to the airport. On this route we were able to pick up some help that we hadn't had before, among them an old steam engineer, who came in handy taking pipes apart.

On June 7, 1948, we quit work at the airport with just part of the floor to take up. By this time we had practically all of the material moved to Maymont, most of it by volunteer trucks.

Then our carpenter returned and we started work again on the hall under new management and as always help came teeming in with hammers and saws, and many that could not leave their work or business, hired someone to take their place.

One local garage man allowed us the use of his garage and tools

and also lent a hand to make bolts, of which there were plenty in the trestle work.

One of our local electricians did the wiring of the hall, labor free. Another individual supplied lighting fixtures.

Ladies of the various organizations came to discuss layout of kitchen.

In November, 1948, our hall was coming along so we could use it for some meetings. At this time three of our local citizens bought a motion picture machine complete and sold it to the hall directors at cost, interest free, to be paid for from profits of shows. This arrangement worked out real satisfactorily.

The first arrangement we had for heating was two space heaters from North Battleford Airport.

One of our citizens supplied paint and a bee was organized to paint interior. Ladies worked as well as men.

The stage was fixed up and a ladies' organization supplied curtains for stage and windows. Benches were made for seats for auditorium and banquet room. Stoves, dishes, etc., were donated for kitchen.

At the end of 1948 we had a hall, not entirely completed, but so we could use, for a cost of \$8,760.00, and we had the whole sum of \$239.50 in the bank.

Now we needed a piano, so as usual, a few individuals put up the money, to be paid back as the hall directors could.

In the autumn of 1949 the directors had eave troughs and one coat of stucco put on the hall. In 1950 the stucco was finished and a flag-pole donated. The grounds were leveled and some gravel put on.

A ladies' organization donated four tables. An individual paid for having auditorium floor sanded. A family that had moved away several years ago and were now residing in Manitoba donated a beautiful electric clock.

In 1951 the directors spent money on dishes for kitchen.

We now had several committees working for hall—the Ladies' Work Committee, the Entertainment Committee, and the Ladies' Improvement Committee, with the motion picture machine. Every one of these committees bringing in a little, at the end of the year amounted to a lot. Then there were other organizations donating to the hall also.

In 1952 the directors and committees devoted most of their time and funds to furnishing kitchen and to paying off accumulated debts.

Early in 1953 an automatic electric oil furnace and air conditioner was installed. This ran into a considerable amount of money, but as usual a resident of the community came forward to loan sufficient funds for its purchase, to be paid back as and when the directors could.

The directors held a bee and had a culvert installed in front of hall.

Early in 1954 the monies that were borrowed to pay for furnace were repayed. The hall was all paid for, clear of debt and had a bank balance of \$222.64.

The Ladies' Improvement Committee thought up the idea of having sanitary toilets installed in the ladies' rest room in hall, so the board of health inspector was notified. He gave plans how it should

be done, so it was done and paid for, and in one more way our hall is modern.

A ladies' organization donated to the hall four tea wagons to be used in the banquet room.

A committee is now discussing the advisability of organizing a badminton club in the hall, to give the young people something to do, and a chance for older ones to work the kinks out of their joints. Present hall directors: M. P. VanDerHaegen, C. A. Brehon, L. Karpan, S. A. Johnston, W. H. Reid, H. Johnston, H. Bohn, A. J. Andrew, Rev. F. L. Myers.

Present officers: President, C. A. Brehon; vice-president, H. Bohn; secretary-treasurer, H. Johnston.

We of Maymont Community are proud of the privilege and opportunity of living here, where the spirit of the pioneer still reigns, and may the citizens of tomorrow never fail to recognize the example of co-operation shown in the building of the "Maymont Community Memorial Hall." A memorial of which we are all proud.



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Mr. W. J. McMillan
General Manager
1111 1st Ave. N.
Winnipeg, Man.